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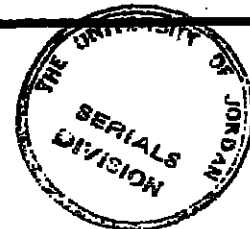
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Details and token, page 10

Freud on Friday
Fat Freddie M, the
alternative voice of
basketball, page 38

Pasta takes a pasting
The healthy food of the
Eighties has become
a bad thing, page 10

20P



THE TIMES

No. 65,187

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10 1995

Public pay increases provoke union fury

By NICHOLAS WOOD
AND PHILIP BASSETT

A PAY deal for the most senior civil servants that could mean increases of up to £30,000 a year provoked a political outcry last night as the Government approved increases of 1.5-3.2 per cent for 1.3 million public servants.

Labour immediately accused ministers of having one law for the rich and another for the rest and unions in teaching and nursing gave warning of a spring of discontent with disruption of schools and hospitals. But ministers were inclined to view these as empty threats after years of relative industrial peace.

Ministers defended the new performance-related arrangements for a tiny Whitehall elite as essential to their policy of opening up the Civil Service to outsiders and attracting high-fliers from private industry.

The storm blew up after the Cabinet approved the recommendations of six independent pay review bodies. The protests were fuelled by the Cabinet's decision to guarantee nurses only 1 per cent extra and to make an additional 2 per cent conditional on local deals.

Ministers rejected phasing in the increases and accepted their advisers' proposals in full. These include the first steps towards dissolving the long-established system of nationally fixed pay rates for nurses and hospital consultants.

The main changes announced yesterday were: A 2.6 per cent rise for the armed forces with 160 senior officers getting 3.2 per cent; 1 per cent on national scales for nurses, midwives and paramedics, plus local negotiations leading to total increases of 1.5-3.0 per cent; 3 per cent for GPs and 2.5 per cent for dentists and hospital doctors; 2.5 per cent for judges and 2.7 per cent for 437,000 teachers. There will be no automatic increase for civil servants in Grades 2 and 3, but 2.5 per cent of the pay bill will be available for performance-related rises. The new pay range

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY RISES

Teachers	2.7
Nurses	1min
Doctors	2.5
— GPs	3
— Consultants	5
Armed Forces — Senior	3.2
— Ranks	2.6
Judges	2.5
Civil servants	2.5

of £90,000-£150,000 applies to 35 top civil servants and ambassadors and will be operated by a new independent remuneration committee.

Rejecting suggestions that potential increases of 27 per cent were insensitive when many people were having to make do with much less, one senior Treasury aide pointed out that any rises would be overseen by an outside committee and that for the first time the pay of permanent secretaries was being related to their performance. Their salaries would be published and any increases would have to be justified. Officials doubted that the permanent secretaries currently in post would enjoy big rises.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, condemned the disparity between top civil servants and groups such as nurses.

"This reinforces the Tories' reputation as the Government of unfairness, with one law for the rich and another for the rest. This is a divided Conservative party presiding over a divided Britain," he said. Leaders of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers are to recommend that its Easter conference authorise industrial action to protect members faced with "unreasonable class sizes". Nigel de Gruchy, the General Secretary, said: "The demand for action from our branches over class sizes is becoming irresistible."

Teachers could decide to take classes of no more than 30, and send other children home. The union said the pay deal was "one unfunded settle-

ment too many". The biggest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, was more cautious. Doug McAvoy, the General Secretary, said the union would not be "bounced" into anything that would look like a "government victory".

School governors also attacked the deal. Simon Goodenough, the Chairman of the National Governors' Council said: "School governors will be greatly disappointed that the Government has ignored calls for full funding of the pay award."

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said: "I know that this settlement will put pressure on local authority and school budgets. But it is for local authorities to give priority to front-line services, such as schools, and many authorities as well as schools have balances that they can draw on to help meet the cost of the settlement."

The review body, whose main recommendations were accepted in full, noted that schools had cash balances of more than £800 million, although its report acknowledged that the award would put extra pressure on staffing levels.

Local authorities joined the chorus of criticism. Saxon Spence, who chairs the Association of County Councils' education committee, said: "We are absolutely astounded that ministers could show such callous disregard for the education of our children. It is asking parents, schools and governors to pay the price of Government fiscal policy."

The Royal College of Midwives warned that its members would consider withdrawing goodwill and changing its policy of not taking industrial action. Julia Allison, the general secretary, said she was "totally disgusted" with the award. But the British Medical Association said the doctors' award would remove the threat of sanctions by hospital doctors if the Government had not accepted the review body's recommendations.

Public sector pay, page 9



Guy Delage arrives in Barbados, welcomed by his wife, son and brother-in-law

Atlantic swimmer's landfall

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

GUY DELAGE completed his swim across the Atlantic yesterday when he staggered ashore on Barbados to a hero's welcome — and the taunts from people at home in France who belittled his epic dip as a publicity stunt.

M. Delage, 42, hugged his two sons and wife Catherine after managing a stylish crawl to the water's edge. He expressed relief as well as regret at leaving the watery world where he had come to feel at home during his 55 days and 2,500 miles at sea, two thirds

of them spent on his high-tech raft. "It's finished for me. I will do another thing now," he said.

The French media, which dismissed him as a near crank when he left the Cape Verde Islands on December 16, switched to admiration as M. Delage neared his goal, surviving shark attack, storms and depression.

With tongue only partly in cheek, *Le Monde* yesterday called M. Delage "our poet swimmer" and suggested he run for the presidency. A month ago, *Le Monde* said the venture would put him in the record book "in between

the world accordion champion and the person who can eat the most snails".

However, the French Swimming Federation said he had merely made daily dips, albeit lasting up to ten hours a time. "You do not swim across the Atlantic like you cross the Channel," said the federation.

M. Delage last night dismissed the criticism as meaningless. The most harrowing moments came last month when he lost the raft in heavy seas and had to chase it for an hour and a half. "I was a little afraid because there were the sharks," he said.

Rifkind forces air chief to quit over cost of renovations

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AIR Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, one of the RAF's most senior commanders, yesterday was asked to resign from his £95,000 job in a confrontation with Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary.

Mr Rifkind told him he no longer had confidence in him as a top-level budget holder, after an independent report, now with ministers, highlighted his lack of judgment in seeking extra expenditure to refurbish his official residence.

Haynes Garth, at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Sir Sandy, 53, is understood to have sought legal advice from a civilian lawyer yesterday before going to see Mr Rifkind.

The Defence Council, which is chaired by Mr Rifkind, has the power to ask any officer to resign if it feels this is an appropriate step but it is not clear whether such a decision has legal standing. The meeting between Sir Sandy and Mr Rifkind took place yesterday afternoon in the Defence Secretary's office at the Ministry of Defence, after the independent report had been leaked to a national newspaper. Defence sources said only about five people at the most senior level in the MoD had seen the report by Sheila Masters, of KPMG Peat Marwick.

After the leak, which does not single out Sir Sandy for overall responsibility for the £387,000 spent on renovations, the air chief marshal, who had been tipped to succeed to the top post of Chief of the Air Staff, is understood to have asked to see Mr Rifkind.

Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, the Chief of the Air Staff, are also understood to have asked to see Mr Rifkind after the leak. Sir Sandy had been told that

he was expected to resign. On Wednesday he was called before Sir Michael who read out a prepared statement, making it clear that Mr Rifkind no longer had confidence in him.

As an air chief marshal, Sir Sandy would have expected to continue in the RAF for another four years until he was 57. By resigning he will lose his entitlement to another four years of pay, which will also affect his pension.

The demand by Mr Rifkind for his resignation represents the most bitter blow for the RAF since March last year, when Marshal of the Royal



Sir Sandy: saw civilian lawyer before meeting

Air Force Sir Peter Harding, then Chief of the Defence Staff, resigned after allegations by a Sunday newspaper that he had an affair with the ex-wife of a former defence minister.

Mr Rifkind's decision to hold Sir Sandy responsible for the catalogue of mistakes that led to the £387,000 bill has caused outrage within the RAF. The report itself has not been presented to the House of Commons and MPs will also be angry that Sir Sandy's resignation has been sought before the matter has been

Continued on page 2, col 4

Oxford's entrance exam is scrapped

By BEN PRESTON AND JOHN O'LEARY

OXFORD dons voted overwhelmingly yesterday to scrap the traditional entrance examination in a move designed to shed the university's elitist image and increase the number of students from state schools.

From autumn 1996, students who apply to Oxford colleges each year will be judged on their A-level results and their performance at interviews. However, the way was left open for colleges to use their own tests.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the Joint Undergraduate Admissions Committee and Principal of St Anne's College, described the decision taken by college representatives after a two-year review as "a major step forward". It would help the university to attract the brightest youngsters, regardless of background.

Pressure for the abolition of the examination has mounted since Cambridge abandoned its equivalent a decade ago. Unlike Cambridge, Oxford still takes a majority of its undergraduates from independent schools.

Mrs Deech, speaking after the 90-minute meeting, said she was surprised by the strength of support for abolition, with representatives voting by 24 to 6.

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THE TIMES

30p ON SATURDAY



WEEKEND

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The Tyrrell team's winning formula

Clarke puts case for EU but urges currency caution

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday defied the tide of Euroscepticism within the Cabinet and the Conservative Party with a passionate defence of Britain's place in Europe and the potential benefits of economic and monetary union.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer underlined his position as the Cabinet's foremost pro-European by dismissing the "knee-jerk reactions" of opponents of a single currency and rejecting their argument that it would lead to a European super-state.

Britain would not settle for observer status or become a sleeping partner in Europe, Mr Clarke declared, as he denied that handing decisions on interest rates to the European Union would "herald the end of the nation state".

In what was intended to be a contribution to John Major's efforts to find a stance on Europe that will unify both wings of his party, Mr Clarke set out the arguments both for and against a single currency, outlined the extra factors that Britain would take

into account before joining, and studiously avoiding stating that he favoured a single currency in principle, an omission that aides said would have been unlikely a year ago.

In an unashamedly pro-European address in London to the European Movement,

Clarke speech... 8
Peter Riddell... 8
Anatole Kaletsky... 16
Leading article... 17
CBI plea... 21

the Chancellor left his audience in no doubt where his sympathies lay, even though he joined the Prime Minister in saying that an ill thought-out monetary union would do Europe harm.

Mr Clarke would have pleased the sceptics by his insistence — stronger than in the past — that monetary union could not proceed unless the economic conditions were right. But he will have incensed the hardliners by his clear implication that if those

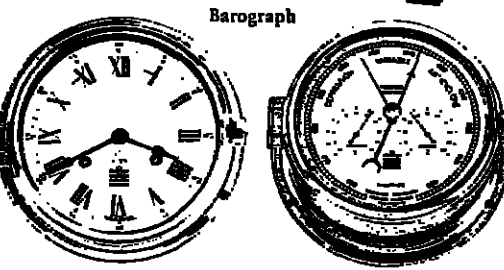
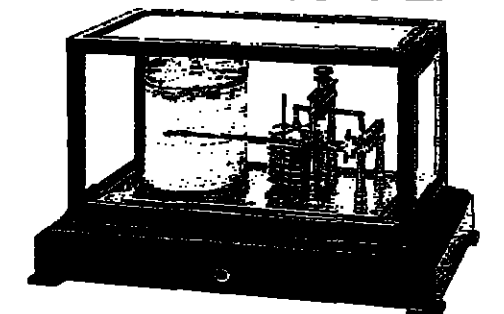
economic conditions were met he had no time for the constitutional objections raised by some of the sceptics. Mr Clarke's speech made no mention of a referendum, to which he remains opposed.

He declared that the decision on a single currency must be based on a "hard-headed assessment" of British national self-interest in terms of jobs, capital investment and selling goods and services in the world market.

His speech underlined the divide in the Tory party. In a move timed to coincide with the speech, almost 100 Tory MPs yesterday signed a broadly Euro-sceptic Commons motion, congratulating Mr Major on ruling out a single currency in 1997, and opposing Tony Blair's posture of support for one. The skilful drafting of the motion meant that it attracted MPs hitherto not considered as sceptics: the majority, however, appeared to be declaring their caution over monetary union. Mr Clarke called on Britain, like

Continued on page 2, col 3

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A day of embarrassing slips and leaks



Lord Lester: has shopped his mates

CAN ever a day have better illustrated the difference between the worlds of the Lords and the Commons, than yesterday? Over in the Lords, old codgers of infinite experience and unfathomable age muller over the issues of the day with judicious care.

Over in the Commons everyone was collapsing in giggles because a backbencher had said something which sounded like "urine". In the House of Peers we started with an apology. Lord Lester of Herne Hill has recently turned journalists' mark and shopped his mates, claiming that some peers accept money to ask questions. Their Lordships are in uproar. To say food has been thrown in the Tea Room would be going too far, but Lester has had to keep out of range of loose tea-cakes. Not to put too fine a point on it,



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

the noble Lord walks in fear of having his noble head shoved down the noble loo by his noble friends. Yesterday he apologised.

Or did he? With peers, as with penguins, behaviour patterns are subtle and complex. It needs the expertise of a parliamentary David Attenborough to interpret a slight inclination of a tilted head, the hint of a waggle of a noble bottom, the faintest aggrieved moo or half-murmured "my noble friend".

Kitted out in black suit and mournful expression, Lord Lester rose. He sounded fairly contrite. He did apologise for "risking blemishing" the House. He did speak of his

own "great personal distress". He even lowered his head and cast down his eyes upon resuming his seat.

But he did not withdraw the allegations. Indeed he implied that his error had been to commit them to a "memo" which had leaked ("by whom I know not") to the Press. He would explain his views to the Procedures Committee instead. He was heard in complete silence.

After Lester's bad dream came a nightmare any ordinary housewife might experience. In this nightmare you are at the dispatch box in the House of Lords and obliged to field hostile enquiries on a fearfully delicate matter —

part-military and part-legal. Your questioners are a Field Marshall and ex-Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the whole Defence Staff, a former Lord Chancellor, a former Home Secretary and a former Lord Chancellor.

The question yesterday was whether the framework under which Private Clegg has been sentenced to life should be changed. The ex-Chief of Defence Staff was Lord Carver; clear, terse and soldierly. The former Chief Justice was Lord Widgof; authoritative and cross. The former Home Secretary was the expert Merlyn Rees. The retired Lord Chancellor was Lord Hailsham; clever, funny, brutal and patronising.

And at the dispatch box? The ordinary housewife was Baroness Blatch. For her there was no waking up, no relieved discovery that it was

only a dream. She really was a member of the Government. She really didn't know the answer. Her performance was heroic.

So I almost missed the roar from down the corridor. Someone had said "urine" in the Commons. Ian Bruce (C, Dorset S) was experiencing a nightmare of his own.

It had been his big moment: called to question the PM. He wanted to ask Mr Major about a committee. Disaster! In his nervousness he gabbled his name. It came out as "the all-party urine group". "Enticing!" said the PM. Everybody was laughing. Bruce couldn't see why. He was standing there in stunned embarrassment.

This morning he, too, may awake and hope that yesterday was a dream. Well, Mr Bruce, if you're reading this, it wasn't.

Lester refuses to retract payment allegation

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD LESTER OF Herne Hill refused last night to retract his allegations of corruption in the House of Lords and appealed for an early opportunity to put his case.

In an unusual intervention at the start of yesterday's business in the Lords the Liberal Democrat peer apologised for "risking blemishing" the House's reputation.

Lord Lester is deeply upset at his treatment by some peers, who have effectively blackballed him. He has told friends that he had no part in the leaking and he is angry that peers are shooting him down as the messenger rather than showing concern over the allegations.

In a statement over the leaking of evidence he gave to a committee about four Lords and several MPs he says took "substantial amounts of cash" for putting questions to ministers, Lord Lester said he regretted the leak.

But although peers and MPs have been calling for him to "put up or shut up" and Lord Cranborne, the Leader of the House, has told him it is his responsibility to substantiate the allegations, Lord Lester, a leading human rights lawyer, last night refused to give any names, saying his source, a client, had not divulged them. Instead he asked for an early opportunity to explain his views in public to the committee under Lord Griffiths, a former law lord, which is investigating the financial affairs of peers.

Members of the House of Lords are ruled by the ancient convention of personal honour and there are no rules specifically governing the payment of cash for questions or declarations of their financial and commercial interest. But in the current climate of concern about sleaze in public life Lord Griffiths's committee is looking at the case for a register of peers' interests.

To story scribe Lord Lester, who was created a peer two years ago, said the disclosure had caused him "great personal distress" and added: "I profoundly regret the embarrassment my note and its public disclosure have caused to the House and to another place."

Later Lord McIntosh of Haringey, deputy leader of the Opposition in the Lords and a member of the committee that was given the memo, agreed with Lord Lester that there was a problem. "Widespread payments by commercial organisations to members of the House of Lords are eating away at the credibility of Parliament," he said. But he said that Lord Lester's apology had not been helpful. "As a lawyer he should know that if you accuse someone of doing something wrong you have to give evidence to back it up. We don't want a queue of people coming here making damaging allegations."

Lord Pearson of Rannoch said: "Peers put far fewer questions down and always on one of their subjects of interest. A paid question would stick out like a sore thumb."

Lord Cranborne, who is responsible for transport in London, was chauffeur-driven to Oldham to discuss local transport problems. After a second engagement in Stockport, where he unveiled a plaque in commemoration of two murdered Department of Transport inspectors, the minister returned to London by second class rail. He told photographers that his travel arrangements had been made two weeks ago. "I don't have to stage those things," he said. "I think that would be frankly pathetic."

After his visit Mr Norris, who is responsible for transport in London, was chauffeur-driven to Oldham to discuss local transport problems. After a second engagement in Stockport, where he unveiled a plaque in commemoration of two murdered Department of Transport inspectors, the minister returned to London by second class rail. He told photographers that his travel arrangements had been made two weeks ago. "I don't have to stage those things," he said. "I think that would be frankly pathetic."

Leading article, page 17
Letters, page 17

Livestock ports face fresh protests

A fresh wave of protests is threatening to engulf Britain's ports as exporters step up livestock shipments in the wake of court rulings prohibiting harbours from turning away lawful trade.

Animal shipments resumed at Shoreham, in West Sussex, yesterday, while at Brightlingsea, Essex, activists were planning a large demonstration today in an attempt to stop the first lorryload of calves entering the small port, which has previously handled only sheep. Organisers predicted 2,000 people would protest.

Appeal ruled out

The Home Office has refused to refer to the Appeal Court the case of four paratroopers sentenced to community service for assaulting a man outside a nightclub. David Martin, a Tory MP, had complained that the sentences imposed at Winchester Crown Court on Tuesday were "grossly inadequate".

Drugs expulsion

A boy of 11 has been expelled from George Ward School in Melksham, Wiltshire, for selling drugs to pupils between lessons. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was caught after allegedly trying to sell a sixteenth of an ounce of cannabis to a 13-year-old who reported him to teachers.

Billing attacked

The Prime Minister condemned Eastern Electricity yesterday for sending bills to customers almost three weeks early. John Major told the Commons that he disapproved of the practice. Labour has condemned as "daylight robbery" the company's early billing, which enhances cash flow.

Leukaemia find

A new treatment for the commonest form of childhood leukaemia has produced encouraging results. The treatment uses a chemical extracted from soy beans and attached to an antibody. The results, using human leukaemia cells in a mouse, show that treatment can kill 99.99 per cent of cancer cells.

Abuser jailed

John Allen, 53, former head of the Bryn Alyn Children's Home in Wrexham, Clwyd, was jailed for six years yesterday for a series of sex offences against boys in his care. He was the seventh man to be convicted after an investigation covering 46 children's homes in Wales.

'Buster' finding

Buster Edwards, 63, the Great Train robber found hanging in a lock-up garage near his flower stall at Waterloo Station, London, last year, had drunk six times the drink-driving alcohol limit. Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, recorded an open verdict.

Rooted in history

Historic Scotland will use 500-year-old oaks from an ecologically managed wood, for authentic reconstruction of the great hall at Stirling Castle. The work is part of £20 million improvements at Scotland's second most popular tourist attraction after Edinburgh Castle.

Mrs Anne Davis

Mrs Anne Davis asks us to make clear that a reference (February 2) to her being deregistered by Sutton social services for smacking a child in her care was incorrect. Mrs Davis was deregistered for refusing to give an undertaking never to smack a decision which she successfully challenged in the courts.

Sinn Fein bugging claim halts peace talks at Stormont

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN suspended talks with government officials in Belfast yesterday after the party's security team claimed to have detected a listening device in private rooms set aside for its delegation.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, categorically denied that the Government had monitored the rooms at the Stormont Parliament buildings, but Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, said that the discovery was "potentially a very serious matter".

Mr Ancram said: "I understand as of this time nothing has been found, but the investigations are continuing. I would like categorically to state that any suggestion or inference that this room was in any way monitored by or on behalf of the British Government is totally without foundation. We want to see this process of exploratory dialogue continue to make good progress."

Martin McGuinness, heading the Sinn Fein delegation, led his team out of the talks after agreeing with government officials to postpone the meeting while police investigated the allegation. Two members of the party stayed behind at Stormont while the rooms were sealed for the RUC investigation.

The listening device was allegedly detected soon after the delegation arrived at Stormont when Sinn Fein's so-called security team carried out a routine sweep of a suite

of rooms set aside for the party's private use. Mr McGuinness immediately called in Quentin Thomas, the Deputy Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office who is leading the Government delegation. He agreed to seal the room and to postpone the talks.

At a press conference at Sinn Fein's headquarters in West Belfast, Mr McGuinness outlined what will be seen as one of the most bizarre developments in the peace process. He said: "We arrived at Stormont at around 1pm. Our security team brought to my attention a strong signal which they picked up during the routine sweep of the rooms which have been allocated to

us for the talks. I satisfied myself that there was indeed a signal and the advice from my security team was that there was a listening device in the room."

He added: "I contacted Quentin Thomas and invited him to our rooms. He came there accompanied by another member of the British delegation. All three of us established to our mutual satisfaction that there was indeed a signal."

Mr McGuinness stressed that Sinn Fein had not walked out of the talks, and that the party had agreed with the Government to postpone the meeting. He added that the party was keen to resume the talks once it was confident it could feel secure.

Sinn Fein would not be drawn further, but Mr Adams said preliminary reports suggested that the development was serious. He said: "If that room was being electronically monitored then as far as we are concerned that is a serious situation. What we are trying to do now is to resolve this matter so that the talks can continue in a secure environment."

The Northern Ireland Office yesterday denied that the Government had monitored the room. In a statement it said: "The head of the Government delegation said that any implication that the rooms were being monitored by, or on behalf of the Government, was without foundation."

Valerie Grove, page 15



Adams: trying to resolve the matter



The cost of renovations to the house in Gloucestershire came to £387,000

Air chief forced to quit

Continued from page 1 properly debated in the House. RAF sources said that as a senior civil servant, Sir Sandy was prevented from making any public comment about the affair.

The Masters report is known to be critical of a number of RAF officers and civil servants and traces the original authorisation for the work in 1992 to Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thompson, who was then commander-in-chief of RAF Support Command. Sir John died of a heart attack last year.

Defence sources said that Sir John approved the estimate, which was then

£250,000, because he believed the value of the house would appreciate significantly. Local estate agents valued Haynes, Garth at £500,000, but MoD valuers last year said it was worth only £250,000.

The report is understood to say that Sir Sandy asked for further renovation work to make the house more suitable for a four-star commander. Sir Sandy was assigned the residence when he became commander-in-chief of RAF Personnel and Training Command.

To cover the decorations needed after the demolition work had been carried out. Sir Sandy was told by Support Command that he could spend £60,000 for the interior work, including new soft furnishings and fabrics. "This figure was given to Sir Sandy and his wife, Mary," one source said.

The work included new bathrooms and a kitchen, a new roof and replacement of all the window mullions. RAF officers last night supported Sir Sandy and there was anger at what appeared to be a high-level leak of allegations, designed to blight Sir Sandy's hopes of keeping his job. They called for the report to be published as soon as possible.

After his visit Mr Norris, who is responsible for transport in London, was chauffeur-driven to Oldham to discuss local transport problems. After a second engagement in Stockport, where he unveiled a plaque in commemoration of two murdered Department of Transport inspectors, the minister returned to London by second class rail. He told photographers that his travel arrangements had been made two weeks ago. "I don't have to stage those things," he said. "I think that would be frankly pathetic."

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Clarke's EU case

Continued from page 1 the French and the Germans, to have the self-confidence to believe that European politics did not threaten national identity. Ridiculing the arguments of those who say that Britain should aim only for an economic role in Europe he said that was the position of Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, "but does not match the history or ambition of the United Kingdom."

Mr Clarke said the single currency could improve the efficiency of the single market. By providing an exchange rate certainty that "alas" the ERM did not deliver, a single currency could lead to stronger trade and investment links to the benefit of all.

Monetary union could secure low inflation and lower and more stable interest rates over the medium term. "We could all benefit from being part of a Europe-wide low inflation zone, and a single currency would reduce the costs that businesses and tourists face every time they exchange money."

Turning to the pitfalls, Mr

Clarke said that an "ill thought out, ill-conceived monetary union would do Europe harm." He entirely understood those who after the unhappy experience of the ERM said that they would need persuading that a single currency was either feasible or desirable. A single currency would not work unless the participating economies were marching as one.

As expected Mr Clarke outlined the additional criteria that Britain felt would have to be met. He said there was a need to tackle deep-seated structural differences within Europe's economies, reflected by current account trade balances, the integration of markets, unit labour costs, and differences in rates of productivity growth.

While Mr Clarke said it would be "folly" to make a decision now one way or the other, Britain must play a full part in work on monetary union before the choice was made.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Norris has 'no cause for regret'

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Prime Minister came to the defence of Steven Norris, the Junior Transport Minister, yesterday and insisted in the Commons that his description of bus and train travellers as "dreadful human beings" had been "widely misinterpreted."

Mr Major said the point made by Mr Norris was that motorists' attitudes had to be changed "and I think few will disagree with that". He was replying at question time to John Townend, Tory MP for Bridlington, who said thousands of women agreed with Mr Norris that they felt intimidated, if using public transport, they had to sit next to "a drunk, somebody high on drugs, or young thugs".

Mr Norris said he had "no regrets" about what he had said. His statement to a Commons select committee had been taken out of context, he

said during a visit to Manchester. "They are not words one regrets having spoken," he said. "But it is a sincere regret that people attempt to make a news story by taking a remark out of context."

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Leading article, page 17
Letters, page 17

God is worth more than a football ticket, says bishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING evangelical bishop said yesterday that people who put less than £8 in the church collection plate but could afford to buy Premiership football tickets had "no sense of value" in God.

The Rt Rev Michael Baughen, Bishop of Chester, said too many people gave £1 a week or less when they could afford much more. Writing in the latest *Dioesan News*, Bishop Baughen said: "The cheapest seats for premier league football matches cost from £12 to £15 — even at lower division games the

cost is £8. Is our Lord worth less? Is his Church? For anyone, except the genuinely poor, to give £1 a week suggests no sense of value for our Lord and his kingdom — and yet over 30 per cent of regular givers are still giving £1 or less each week." He added: "As St Paul puts it, giving is a proof of the genuineness of your love for Christ, who, though he was rich, became poor for our sakes."

Referring to the Church of England's financial crisis, which led this week to the announcement that the Church Commissioners had put the MetroCentre up for sale, the bishop called for a "steady realistic

shouldering of the new situation, even if it does feel uncomfortable, until we get used to it."

His comments provoked controversy in Chester last night. Christine Russell, a councillor, said: "The bishop appears to be applying market forces to religion. People don't prove their Christian credentials by how much money they give to the Church."

Paul Goggins, of Church Action on Poverty, said: "We must resist at all stages putting any undue pressure on people who cannot afford to pay, and that is the risk of remarks like this. People must not feel stigmatised in any way." A spokes-

woman for Oxfam said: "We would only expect people to give what they were able."

The Bishop's chaplain, the Rev Tim Barker said: "This is clear Christian teaching about the importance of proportionate giving. The reason for the comparison with football tickets is to jolt people into thinking about the way prices have changed in a way that their giving might have not. He is not saying everyone should put £8 in the collection plate."

Mr Barker said: "He is referring to Deuteronomy 16.16 and 17, which says people should bring such gifts as they can in proportion to the

blessing God has given them. He says clearly that for some £1 a week may be a reasonable proportion, but for those earning more, giving must be in proportion to what they are earning, which has always been the teaching of the Church and the Bible."

Only two out of five young people believe in God, according to a survey of 17,000 teenagers published today by researchers at Trinity College, Carmarthen. One in three is agnostic, and a quarter say that they are atheists. One quarter of the teenagers questioned had considered suicide, the report found.

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27 JAN 1995

ALF activist jailed for sending hoax bomb

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN ANIMAL rights activist who terrorised an eight-months pregnant woman with a hoax bomb and death threats was jailed for three years yesterday.

Niel Hansen, 28, sent a package by taxi to the home of Karen Gardner, a public relations officer with the pharmaceutical company Glaxo. It was detonated by an army bomb disposal squad who found that it contained cat litter.

Luton Crown Court was told that Hansen was trying to prevent the company from developing a £700 million research establishment in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, by discouraging staff recruitment. Glaxo spent more than £100,000 rehusing Mrs Gardner, 33, and her husband Colin after the bomb hoax and an attack in which paint was daubed on the couple's home in Stevenage.

Hansen is unemployed and a member of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), with previous convictions for arson and criminal damage to butchers' shops. Judge Ronald Moss told him: "I don't suppose that many of us will understand why many of you behave in the way you do. I imagine a large number of people sympathise with your

views but when they spill over and the rule of law is threatened then the courts have got to take a stand."

Hansen admitted sending the imitation bomb, and criminal damage. A charge of conspiracy to cause criminal damage was left on the file. Two charges against his girlfriend, Tracy Stephenson, 26, were left on file and she was allowed to leave the dock.

On October 21, 1993, Mrs Gardner and her husband visited friends, returning the next day to find the front of their house daubed in red paint and glass etching fluid which turned the windows opaque.

Two hours before they returned home the ALF held a press conference in an hotel in Hertford to report the attack and warn of future measures against Glaxo employees.

Two days after the incident Mr Gardner received a telephone call at home from a man saying: "Tell Karen she is dead." Then on November 1, 1993, a series of telephone calls was made to the couple's home from a public house in Stevenage. The third of these was taken by Mrs Gardner who said "Hello" but received no reply. A barmaid at the pub remembered seeing Hansen there.

Soon afterwards a man telephoned Stevenage library pretending to be Mr Gardner and saying that his wife had left a parcel there which he would send a taxi to collect.

Mrs Gardner took a further call saying: "Make sure you obey instructions in the note with the bomb or there will be a bloodbath." When the taxi arrived Mrs Gardner shouted at him not to get the package out of the boot but the driver, thinking it a joke, left it on the pavement and drove off.

After the case Mrs Gardner said: "Anyone who works in medical research is aware of the risk."

Letters, page 17



Norma Major, left, and Dame Joan Sutherland with the blood-stained costume she wore in the 1959 production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Blood and cheers at Sutherland auction

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FOR Dame Joan Sutherland, the opera singer known as "La Stupenda", yesterday was a performance to remember. As an auction of 300 pieces of personal memorabilia, the blood-spattered costume that she wore in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Covent Garden in 1959 was sold for £5,750, twice the estimate.

The gown, designed by Franco Zeffirelli, the film director, who insisted it be heavily stained for the mad scene in Act III, was bought by the Royal Opera House for its archives. As the auctioneer's hammer fell, bidders broke into applause.

Some, it seemed, could remember Dame Joan in that original production, which first brought her international renown. Others would have seen her relive the role almost every year for a quarter of a century, at houses

from the Metropolitan to Minneapolis. For four decades, she dazzled audiences with her vocal range and technical prowess.

Four years after her last performance, Dame Joan, 68, sat towards the back of Sotheby's London saleroom, calmly noting prices fetched next to each catalogue entry. If first-night memories were flooding back as each lot was displayed, she was giving little away. From time to time, a devotee would ask for an autograph. One woman asked her to sign a fan that she had just bought from the collection.

Dame Joan amassed a huge collection of costumes, which she kept in an attic in her Swiss home, near Montreux. After the sale, which totalled nearly £216,200, she spoke of her relief at not having to take them home again. Asked what she



Norma Major had her eye on paste jewellery

thought the buyers would do with them, she answered: "I don't think anyone will make a patchwork out of them." One man who bought several costumes admitted he had no idea.

Karen Taylor, who organises walking tours of Kensington, West London, was delighted with the costume she bought for £460. "It's so

beautiful I could wear it. And it's from one of my favourite operas, *La Traviata*." She said that she had not intended to spend more than £200 until she had seen the opera identified. "Ooh, and it was Zeffirelli. Oh, my God, and she dies in this act."

Norma Major, wife of the Prime Minister and biographer of Dame Joan, was

another of those bidding for a souvenir. She told the opera star that she had her eye on paste jewellery from *La Traviata*. Mrs Major, who wrote the introduction to the auction catalogue, sat at the front of the saleroom, while someone else bid for her. It was not clear if she was after a collection of jewels from various 1960s *Traviata* productions, which sold for £977, and included crystal earrings, or for the ruby and diamond necklace worn in Zeffirelli's 1960 production, which fetched £862.

Although Sotheby's insisted that Mrs Major did not go home with a purchase, Mrs Major told Dame Joan that she was "happy with what I got". Dame Joan, who said that she had been emotional only when she saw the collection leave her house for Sotheby's, could not quite recall what that was.

Photograph, page 20

Prison for stressed nurse who attacked babies

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SHORT-TEMPERED and overworked children's hospital nurse who attacked two babies in his care was jailed for five years yesterday.

Richard Coleman, 29, slammed a seven-week-old girl head-first against a wall leaving her with possible life-long brain damage. A seven-month-old boy received a broken arm after being picked up with a "pulling and twisting motion".

Passing sentence at Snaresbrook Crown Court, Judge Hitching told Coleman that it was clear both attacks were connected to emotionally demanding shifts of up to 12 hours at Great Ormond Street children's hospital in London. "They have a background of general stress arising from long hours at work and particular stresses relating to your family," he added that Coleman had "a particular personality that reacts and responds in a particular way to situations of stress".

Coleman, a father-of-two from Ilford, Essex, was convicted last year of causing grievous bodily harm to Dominic Judd and grievous bodily harm with intent to the baby girl, who cannot be named.

The court was told that while Dominic, now aged two, from Billericay, Essex, was being treated at Great Ormond Street, Coleman used the child's arm as a lever to haul him into the air and snapped the limb.

Seven months later he battered his second victim while caring for her at a private house. The girl was swung through the air against a wall and suffered two severe skull fractures, brain haemorrhaging and a broken ankle.

Dr Nigel Eastman, a psychiatrist, told the court that Coleman had "permanent and inherent" damage to his personality that was probably untreatable.

After the hearing Sir Anthony Tipper, Great Ormond Street chief executive, said that the incident was deeply regretted. "Nothing during Coleman's training had given rise to worries about his suitability as a children's nurse."



Judge Moss: "Not many understand your action."

Navy officers squared up over Wren at bonfire night disco

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO Royal Navy lieutenants were given a dressing down and fined by a court martial yesterday for squaring up to each other in a dispute over a Wren at a bonfire night discotheque. They were told their behaviour was "totally unacceptable in naval officers".

Andrew Mannister, a Sea King pilot with two years' operational flying in Bosnia and the commander's assistant at the HMS Sultan shore base at Gosport, Hampshire, and Duncan Forer, described as "a larger than life character", were fined £1,000 and £650 respectively.

Mannister, whose defence counsel said he flew Radovan Karadzic to peace conferences while serving in Bosnia, and Forer had first swapped insults on the dance floor before going outside. At the court martial at Portsmouth they each admitted using threatening behaviour and provocative words.

The trouble flared at the junior officers' disco at HMS Sultan on November 5 last year. Wren Tunnock Coppock had gone to the disco at the invitation of Mannister, the organiser, although she had spent much of the time dancing with Forer, Lieutenant Commander Nick Hawkins. In the early hours, when the

disc jockey played the last dance, Forer had approached Mannister and introduced himself with a handshake, but then said: "You're lucky you haven't had your head kicked in tonight." Mannister replied: "Don't come that shit with me," adding: "We had better go outside." The two officers had then gone out through the patio door to a nearby road.

"Mannister adopted a karate-style pose. He was bouncing around, waving his arms and jabbing," the prosecution said. Forer had said: "You've chosen the wrong man," and the two had to be pulled apart. Mannister received a bruise on his forehead and Forer a cut lip.

Lieutenant Commander Rod Blain, for Forer, said he was an honest and forthright officer and perhaps those qualities were "rather stronger than his diplomacy". Commander Michael Penfold, one of Forer's former commanding officers, told the court martial that Forer, 30, was a "larger than life" character, a captain of cricket and organiser of numerous other

events. He was very well liked. Lieutenant Commander Andrew Jameson, for Mannister, 26, said as organiser of the event he felt responsible for the evening's success and resolved three things. "One, he resolved not to drink too much, two to circulate, and three to get the evening going."

He was "flabbergasted" when Forer approached him and said he was lucky not to have had his head kicked in. He added: "He did not know what on earth he was talking about. When he said 'We had better go outside,' it was spontaneous. It meant let's avoid a scene in here."

Peter Jones, Commander of HMS Sultan, described Mannister as "very capable, alert, keen, and a great support". He remained as a commanding officer's assistant after the incident, he told the court martial.

Captain Anthony McEwan, president of the board, said: "We are in no doubt that this was a serious incident. Notwithstanding that neither of you sustained serious injury it was because you were physically separated by wiser messmates."

"Your behaviour is totally unacceptable in naval officers — by that I mean resorting to violence."



Mannister, left, who took the Wren to the disco, and Forer, who spent much of the time with her

Judge defends his sleeping dog

By A STAFF REPORTER

A JUDGE'S dog was cleared yesterday of disrupting a court case with its snoring. Barty, a 12-year-old Springer spaniel, went on trial after Graham Gregory, a building equipment supplier, said that the noise prevented him from concentrating while giving evidence during a two-hour hearing over a disputed accountant's bill.

However, Judge Brandt, Barty's owner, threw out Mr Gregory's plea for a new hearing of the case at Colchester County Court, saying that the application was "ridiculous and fictitious". Judge Brandt, whose dog has slept at his feet in court for the past five years, said that Mr Gregory was "a gentleman who lacks anything in the way of integrity or scruples. It would have been

better if sleeping dogs had been left to lie where they were."

The judge made his comments after being told that Mr Gregory had a "peculiar sensitivity" to background noise and was unable to collect his thoughts during the hearing last month. He said that Mr Gregory had given people a great deal of enjoyment with his claim and for that he awarded him Brownie points.

"This is the first I have heard of his hearing condition and I am quite satisfied he was the only person who heard anything at all," Judge Brandt said. "There was absolutely nothing wrong with the original trial and I only wish he had the decency to apologise for all this. But he has not."

The court was told that nobody had ever complained about the dog's presence under the judge's bench and a tape recording of the original proceedings showed no evidence that he was snoring at the time. Barty was at his master's feet as usual during yesterday's hearing and quietly dozed through the discussion of his sleeping habits.

Mr Gregory, 41, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, who now faces a hefty legal bill in addition to the original £6,000 judgment, said afterwards: "The whole thing is like something out of Monty Python. But I won't be taking the judge's advice to let sleeping dogs lie. I am going to appeal."

Mr Gregory, who has written to the Lord Chancellor, said that he did not complain at the original hearing because he had no idea that there was a dog in court and thought that it might be the judge snoring.

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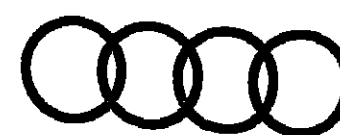
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Flamboyant Blackpool Football Club owner arrested in dawn raid on country home

Millionaire held in inquiry into attacks on women

BY KATE ALDERSON
AND JON ASHWORTH

OWEN OYSTON, the self-made socialist millionaire and owner of Blackpool Football Club, was arrested by police at his home in a dawn raid yesterday after allegations had been made of serious sexual assaults on women.

The 60-year-old businessman, one of the most prominent and flamboyant entrepreneurs in the Northwest, was still being questioned by detectives at a police station in south Manchester last night.

The arrest, by Greater Manchester Police, followed a five-month inquiry which began at a modelling agency in Manchester.

He was arrested at his 16th-century country manor, Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster, where he lives with his wife Vicky, a former Blackpool beauty queen whom he divorced and later remarried, and their five children. Six rare European bison graze in the 150 acres of land surrounding the Tudor hall, once owned by the Morse family.

Mr Oyston once dreamed of treading the boards as a big-league actor. He never made it, but that has not stopped him rising to become one of Britain's most theatrical business personalities. Life was



Vicky Oyston: married Owen Oyston twice

not always luxurious. At the depths of his attempts to break into acting in London, he was living on just one bottle of milk a day. He then took a job as a sewing machine salesman, and when the firm went bust Mr Oyston began his own company, which in turn collapsed, a year later, leaving him with just £7 in cash, a Jaguar car which was his pride and joy, and four gallons of petrol.

Known for his goatee beard, flowing grey locks and trademark stetson, he injected a welcome burst of colour into the somewhat grey business of buying and selling houses.

Raised in Blackpool, the son of a coal miner, Mr Oyston left school at 16 after passing "nothing more than a lamp-post", and had a go at acting before more mundane reality found him back in the North, working as a property salesman. He went on to wake up the staid world of estate agency, pioneering a "no sale, no fee" arrangement during the Sixties, and once famously tumbling backwards fully clothed into a swimming pool to promote his wares on television. The Oyston Estate Agency, with 89 offices, revolutionised the business, staying open late at night.

Two decades on, Oyston could claim to have built Britain's largest firm of family-owned estate agents. With deft timing — or perhaps plain luck — he sold out to Royal Insurance in 1987 for a tidy £30 million, shortly before the property market collapsed. He took over the debt-ridden News on Sunday, a left-wing tabloid, but it collapsed less than six months later. He remains the owner of the Lancashire Life magazines series.

He used the cash he made from the sale of his chain to build a media empire in the North West, with interests in a number of radio, publishing and cable television ventures.



Owen Oyston at Cloughton Hall, Lancaster, the Tudor house which is also home to six rare European bison

He took a controlling stake in Blackpool Football Club, and established a stud farm to breed his own racehorses. Mr Oyston also turned his hand to broadcasting, founding Red Rose Radio in a converted church in Preston, and going on to buy various independent stations including Piccadilly Radio in Manchester and Red Dragon Radio in Cardiff. He became an outspoken critic of Margaret Thatcher. In 1988, arguably at the peak of his fortunes, Mr Oyston merged his radio in-

terests with the company behind the Miss World pageants to create Trans World Communications. The venture was not a success, and Eric Morley, the Miss World creator, later bought back his side of the business.

Mr Oyston resigned as chairman and chief executive of Trans World in July 1991 under pressure from shareholders angered by mounting losses at the radio group. He is reputed to have lost £2 million after the failure of the News on Sunday in 1987, the left-wing

tabloid launched in Manchester. He received substantial damages from The Sunday Times in 1991 on the settlement of a libel action brought over reports published in 1989 which dealt with share dealings involving him and Derbyshire council council pension funds.

He was dubbed a champagne socialist after he stood as a Labour candidate in local elections in Blackpool in the early 1960s. He recently announced plans for a £130 million astro-dome at the

resort. Police charged two people with sex offences yesterday. Peter Martin, 54, a businessman and a former policeman, was accused of rape and Tracy Marie Graine, 23, in charge of a modelling agency, was charged with indecent assault. The pair, who share a house in Sale, Greater Manchester, were remanded in custody by Trafford magistrates yesterday, pending further police inquiries. Both had previously been on bail accused of various indecent assaults.

Protests fail to keep drug clinic out of village

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A SALE will be completed today that will bring Europe's largest alcohol and drug rehabilitation clinic to a seaside Norfolk village in the face of fierce local opposition and claims of financial irregularity.

Work will start within four weeks on the 110-bed charity clinic at Mundesley Hospital. The centre, which will cater for heroin and crack addicts, is a short distance from a stone-built holiday chalet camp and caravan site.

Sir Ralph Howell, the local MP, referred the case to the National Audit Office after the building was sold to Adapt, a London charity, for £250,000 by the Anglia and Oxford Regional Health Authority. It had been put on the market for £500,000.

Sir Ralph, Tory MP for Norfolk North, said last night: "I have appealed direct to Virginia Bottomley [the Health Secretary] without success. I have written to the Comptroller General because I don't think taxpayers are being given a fair deal. It is being sold at a cut price." Charities are paying the £1 million conversion costs. Local authorities, health authorities and probation services will pay the £440 weekly residential cost per patient.

Norman Southern, a parish councillor, said last night: "There is intense feeling against this. This is a family holiday resort. It is an unsightly beauty spot. This will alter the character of the village forever."

Brian Arbery, Adapt's chief executive, said he had been taken aback by the intense opposition to the project, which did not require planning permission. He said: "We have chosen this site because it is in an isolated position. There is an increase in drug use in Norfolk and a need for this facility."

A spokeswoman for the regional health authority rejected accusations of financial irregularity over the sale. "We sold it for the best price on offer. It was the only tender which came in."

Cost of running private jail £8m more than Group 4 bid

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of running Britain's first privatised jail is £8 million more than the original bid made by the Group 4 security firm, the Commons Public Accounts Committee disclosed yesterday.

Committee members expressed concern that the figure was substantially higher than bargained for when the contract was awarded. The bid was £21.5 million over five years, but the actual cost is estimated to be £29.67 million.

MPs also criticised the Government's failure to give full details

about why Group 4 was chosen to run the Wolds remand jail on Humberside, which holds 320 male inmates. Tenders from two other firms were lower than Group 4's, one by £2.5 million.

MPs said that important items of expenditure such as water, gas and electricity were not included in the initial contract with Group 4. The Government had also significantly underestimated other costs.

"It is important that the full and true costs of running private sector prisons should be made known at the earliest opportunity, so direct and meaningful comparisons can be made with prisons managed by

the public sector," the report said. It welcomes the fact that the Prison Service intends to include the costs of utilities and maintenance in every future contract.

To avoid any question of impropriety, detailed reasons should always be recorded when a contract was not awarded to a firm that submitted the lowest bid and was deemed suitable for the job, the report said.

MPs on the committee took "particular interest" in the fact that Charles Erickson, one of the eight members of the evaluation panel which awarded the contract to Group 4, left the prison service after

the contract was awarded and had since joined the company. The MPs noted evidence from the Prison Service that the handling of Mr Erickson's move had complied with rules on the movement of staff between the public and private sectors and had been considered by the Cabinet Office.

The report highlighted the fact that the Home Office could withhold part or all of the monthly payment to Group 4 if performance was unsatisfactory, and that the Prison Service had said that, although there had been one or two failures to meet the contract, the penalty clause had not been in-

voked. Last night Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service, said it had been decided to exclude the cost of utilities from the cost.

"The bulk of the £8 million is simply costs that were known about at the time, which could not be precisely estimated, and which we chose to pay directly," he said.

The total cost of operating Wolds, including the £8 million, was £4 million less than the estimated cost of operating it in the public sector, he said. A lower bid than Group 4's to run the prison was not accepted because "price is not the only consideration".



Lewis: chose to exclude costs

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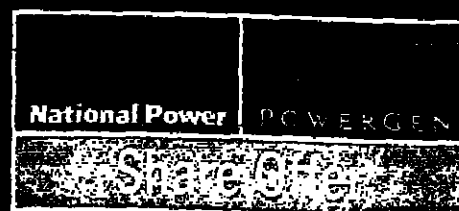


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Ruling puts seizure powers in doubt

Britain ordered to pay costs to jailed drug trafficker

BY IAN MURRAY AND FRANCES GIBB

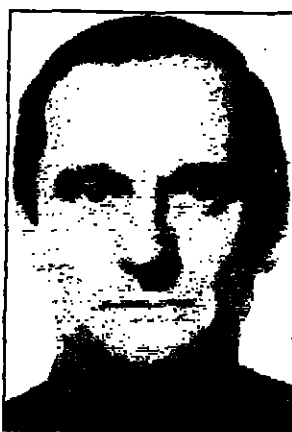
BRITAIN was ordered to pay a convicted drug trafficker nearly £14,000 in costs yesterday for penalising him under a law which had not come into force when his crimes were committed.

The European Court of Human Rights said it might also award damages if the Government failed to reach a settlement over any claim for compensation. The ruling casts doubt on the validity of part of the Drugs Trafficking Act 1986, used to confiscate money from convicted traffickers. The Home Office said the decision was "disappointing and frustrating".

David Maclean, the junior Home Office minister, said in Parliament: "The whole Commons shares the indignation of the decision these jurists have reached. The decision is not the view of the Government. We have robustly defended our corner. We shall reflect on it, but we remain convinced that the laws we have are just and appropriate for dealing with drug dealers."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, condemned the ruling as alarming. The Act says courts must assume that any money owned by a trafficker in the six years leading up to his arrest is the proceeds of trafficking. Orders for some £55 million of assets to be seized have reportedly been made since the Act came into force. Other convicted traffickers may now be able to use the judgment to try to overturn confiscation orders.

The case involved Peter Welch, who was arrested in



Welch: fought against order to pay £67,000

November 1986 and charged with drug offences. He was found guilty in August 1988 and sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment. The judge made a confiscation order for £66,914 under the Act, which came into force in January 1987, two months after his arrest.

He was told that if he failed to pay he would be liable to serve a further two years. In 1990 the Appeal Court reduced his sentence by two years and the size of the confiscation order by £7,000. He appealed to the Commission of Human Rights on the ground that he was the victim of a penalty imposed by retrospective legislation. The confiscation order has not been enforced because of Welch's plea to Strasbourg.

Britain lost its argument that the confiscation was not a penalty but a method of recovering illicit gains. The court ruled that the confiscation was a penalty because of "the sweeping statutory assumption

that all property passing through the offenders hands over a six-year period is the fruit of drug trafficking unless he can prove otherwise".

The fact that any order was not limited to actual profit and that a trial judge had discretion to fix the sum all pointed to the confiscation being a penalty, the court said.

It emphasised that its ruling concerned only the retrospective application of the law. "[The court] did not call into question in any respect the powers of confiscation conferred on the courts as a weapon in the fight against the scourge of drug trafficking."

The Home Office said that this showed "the court's judgment does not mean that orders confiscating the proceeds of crime are contrary to the European Convention of Human Rights. The sole issue in the Welch case was whether the confiscation order is a penalty and whether it can be applied retrospectively."

Mr Welch, 56, was released on parole last August and is living in Wales. His solicitor, Roger Atter, said yesterday that his client was delighted with the outcome, although he would continue to campaign to establish his innocence of the drug trafficking charges.

Ben Emmerson, the barrister representing Welch, said that despite warnings before the legislation was introduced that it would breach the convention, "the Home Office has buried its head in the sand and built an entire legislative framework on the unsustainable framework that these confiscation orders are not criminal penalties. It was that myth that the court exposed."



PC James Seymour, left, and PC Simon Carroll. They were unarmed when Smith shot them outside a pub

Dealer who shot officers gets 25 years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN INTERNATIONAL drug dealer was jailed for a total of 25 years by the Old Bailey yesterday for shooting two police officers as he tried to escape justice. As he was led to the cells, Leroy Smith, 26, mimed firing a gun at the officers he had almost killed. Judge Richard Lowry told him: "Dreadful crimes must attract dreadful sentences."

Smith, of Wandsworth, south London, had escaped from prison when he shot PC James Seymour, 31, in the back and his colleague, PC Simon Carroll, 23, in the leg after they approached him in Brixton, south London, in

March last year. The judge said: "The courts must deter those who seek to impose gun law on sections of the community. The law must protect the community and police officers who carry out their duties courageously." He said he had watched Smith throughout the month-long trial and had perceived no sign of remorse.

Smith was approached by the two unarmed officers as he went to a pub used by drug dealers. After firing at the officers, Smith escaped on a motorbike and then fled to America, where he was later arrested in connection with

another shooting. David Walters, for the prosecution, said that while in the United States, Smith, believed to have connections to Jamaican Yardie drug gangs operating in Britain, boasted to his girlfriend about what he had done. He said he regretted that he had not "got them good and proper".

Smith was jailed for two years for the escape, 18 years for a firearms offence, and five years for robbery. He was also given a 25-year sentence for attempting to murder PC Seymour and 18 years for wounding PC Carroll, all sentences to run concurrently.



Leroy Smith: boasted about the shooting

Club told Cantona to escape TV crews

ERIC CANTONA, who allegedly failed to turn up for questioning by police on Wednesday, was told by Manchester United to leave his home because television crews were camped outside. Alex Ferguson, the club manager, said yesterday. He is understood to be on holiday in Antigua.

Police said on Wednesday that they were annoyed when Cantona failed to turn up for questioning at South Norwood police station, south London, about his attack on a Crystal Palace fan two weeks ago. However, Ferguson said that police knew Cantona would be going on holiday.

Ferguson, who was back at the club's Old Trafford headquarters yesterday after the team had taken a four-day break in Spain, said: "We had to get Eric away because television crews were camped outside his house and more and more were coming every day."

Ferguson's comments echoed those of Maurice Watkins, Cantona's solicitor, who said on Wednesday: "It is just not true that Eric Cantona has failed to turn up at South Norwood police station. No appointment had been made for him to appear because he is on holiday and the police were fully aware of this."

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "We have no powers to make him return to the United Kingdom but will be questioning him as soon as he returns."

Oil threat from warship sunk by Germans in 1939

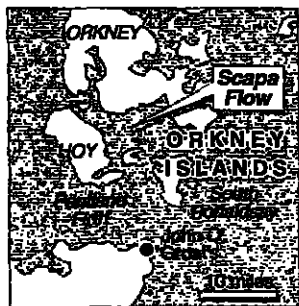
BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE battleship *Royal Oak*, torpedoed by the Germans at the beginning of the Second World War, is threatening to pollute the waters of Scapa Flow. Oil is seeping from the wreck and Royal Navy divers have begun investigating the extent of the hazard to the Orkney Islands.

The ship went down in 27 metres of water at midnight on October 13 1939, when 24 officers and 809 crewmen lost their lives as a U-boat torpedo found its target, and is an official war grave.

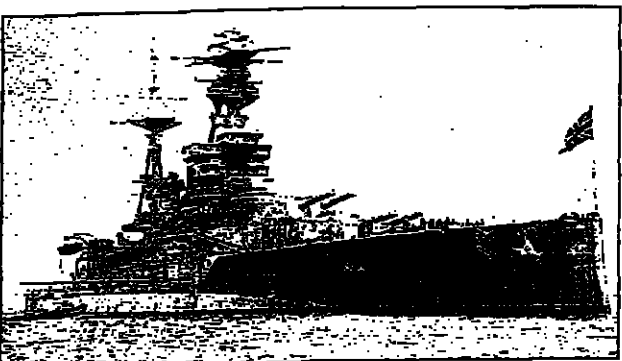
The battleship was carrying about 3,500 tonnes of diesel fuel when she sank. Fifty five years later, her hull is in such a corroded state there are fears of a major oil spill. Whales are regular visitors to the enclosed waters of the Flow, home to seals, divers, augs, sea duck and many species of fish.

David Flanagan, of Orkney Islands Council, said that over the years there has been



a steady trickle of oil and the sheen on the water where the ship sank is visible from the air. Experts from Rosyth naval base have taken photographs and samples and will send a report to the council in the next few weeks.

Scapa Flow, where the German High Seas Fleet scuttled itself at the end of the First World War, is a favourite diving ground for trophy hunters, and although civilians are forbidden to dive on *HMS Royal Oak* there have been claims that souvenir hunters have used explosives on the vessel.

The battleship *Royal Oak*: 833 of her crew died

Trust alters rules after body goes by courier

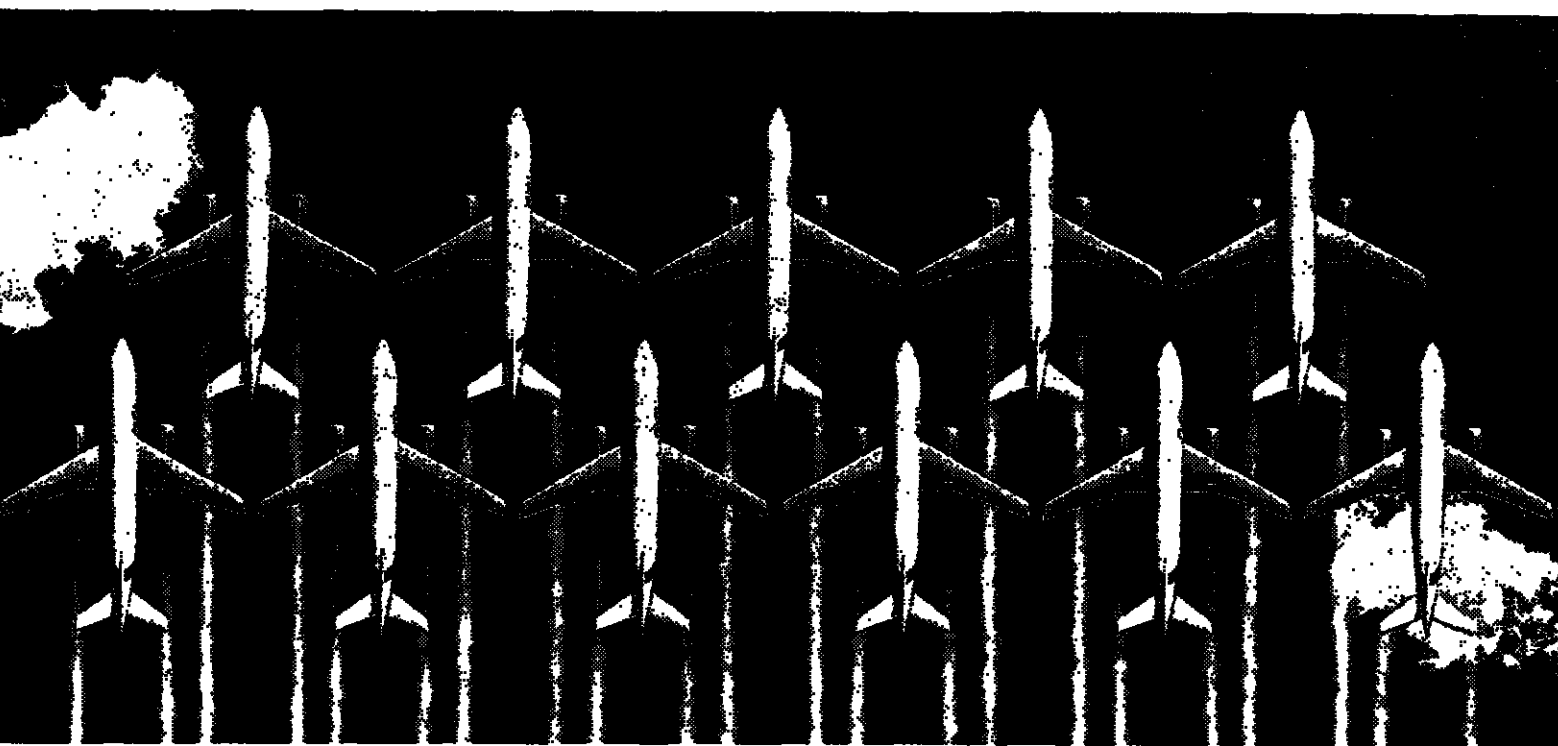
A HOSPITAL that sent the body of a still-born baby in a cardboard box by parcel delivery van for a post-mortem examination said yesterday that changes in procedures meant it would never happen again.

The changes came after an inquiry into the incident involving Wrexham Maelor Hospital NHS Trust in North Wales in November last year. Eddie Kinsella, the chief executive, said: "In future, we shall use coffins for still-born babies and provide the dignity and care of undertakers or special hospital transport."

Officials at the hospital were criticised after paying £50 to have the 7lb baby's body delivered to the University College Hospital, Cardiff, for examination. Mr Kinsella said reports that the baby fell out of the box or that fluid had leaked out were incorrect, but, because of an error in procedures, the couriers did not know what was in the parcel.

Mr Kinsella said: "The inquiry panel is absolutely satisfied that our staff acted in a very professional and caring manner. The problems centre around the transport." He added: "In future, parents will have a choice of using a funeral director or dedicated hospital transport. Parents will also be able to go with them if they wish."

"Our recommendations will be brought to the attention of the Welsh Office Health Department so that lessons learnt can be widely circulated across the NHS." He said the trust had repeated its apologies to the parents.



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Sweet gifts for a Valentine

VALENTINE'S Day treats include a presentation box of 12 red roses with a selection of handmade Belgian chocolates for £22.95 from Waitrose, delivered free to anywhere on the mainland (Marianne Darch writes).

Heart-shaped Belgian chocolates have been reduced to £1.99 for 200g at Budgens, and Sainsbury is tempting lovers with a Majestic Alabama Chocolate Fudge Cake for 99p. Tesco's new recipe Strawberry Gateau is £1.49. Best buys at Harrods include heart-shaped duck and orange or cauliflower and leek mousse, both £2.75 each, and heart-shaped Coeur Fleuri cheese for £2.15 each.

There are further reductions on British beef and pork this

week. British Heritage beef top rump is reduced to £3.68 a lb at Safeway and at Asda British beef brisket is down to £1.79 a lb. At Sainsbury a boneless leg of British pork is £1.19 a lb and unsmoked British bacon 89p a lb. Traditional white fish is good



value, with large cod fillets about £3.20 a lb. Best buys include: Asda: turkey breast steaks £1.79 a lb; mixed salad and peppers 99p for a 300g pack; 7 almond fingers 49p. Budgens: fresh chicken £3.99 for 5lb; steak and kidney pies £1.39 for 454g. Co-op: garden peas 24p for

283g; choc' and nut cornflakes 99p for 500g; Rich Tea biscuits 29p for 300g. Harrods: fresh rainbow trout £1.80 a lb; farmed salmon £5.50 a lb. Marks and Spencer: fish casserole £3.99; medium luxury bread and butter pudding £1.69; Chianti £3.49 for 75cl. Safeway: quiche lorraine £1.19 for 340g; crumpets 37p for 12; lemonade 26p for 2 litres.

Somerfield: unsmoked middle bacon 89p a lb; loose parsnips 45p a lb; 350g pepperoni pizza 99p. Tesco: fresh chicken quarters £1.29 a lb; extra mature Canadian cheddar £2.44 a lb; new potatoes 29p a lb. Waitrose: smoked haddock fillets £2.99 a lb; 3 half baguettes 69p; Waitrose dairy vanilla ice-cream 99p for one litre.

'It's a mistake to believe that monetary union is a huge step on path to a federal Europe'

Clarke pleads for less dogma and more sense.

The following is an edited version of Kenneth Clarke's speech to the European Movement last night.

A POSITIVE role for Britain in Europe enhances our position in the world, benefits greatly our economy and ultimately strengthens, not weakens, the British nation.

Our goal should be a strong Britain in the heart of a strong Europe, a Europe of strong nation states acting together to further common interests where they exist, but retaining the essential features of national identity. The bottom line on every proposed policy should always be: "Would this European policy be good for Britain?"

We should not feel guilty or apologetic about that. Germans ask if European policies are good for Germany, and Frenchmen ask if European policies are good for France. It is entirely right for each member state to ask if Europe is serving its legitimate national self-interest.

Active membership of the European Union does serve our national self-interest. The political achievements of the

European Community have been immense. Britain's political influence in the world remains strong — in the Security Council, in the G7 and in our special relationship with the United States. We are the key players now alongside and with our powerful neighbours and friends, France and Germany. We must now allow Britain to become marginalised in Europe.

The ability of British firms to compete in Europe will depend on the ability of the British Government to shape economic policy in Europe in support of British interests. But we will only be able to influence economic policy if we are prepared to engage in the political process with our partners in Europe.

Whether or not Britain should participate in a single currency is one of the most important economic policy decisions that the British Parliament must eventually have to make. At the moment discussion about it is producing more heat and less light than any other subject in British political debate.

Let me take a few moments to look at some of the economic

issues involved and separate them from the knee-jerk reactions that mention of the single currency all too often generates. What are the potential benefits? By reducing an element of instability and removing the risk of competitive devaluations, a single currency could improve the efficiency of the single market. By providing an exchange rate certainty that, alas, the ERM did not deliver, a single currency could lead to stronger trade and investment links to the benefit of all. Monetary union could — and I emphasise could — secure low inflation and lower and more stable interest rates over the medium term. We could all benefit from being part of a Europe-wide low-inflation zone. And, of course, a single currency within Europe would reduce the costs that businesses and tourists face every time they exchange money.

Of course, the adoption of a single currency would not be without its risks. An ill-thought-out, ill-conceived monetary union would do Europe harm. I entirely understand those who say that after the unhappy experience of our participation in the ERM they will need some persuading that a single currency is either feasible or desirable. The potential pitfalls of a single currency are well known. As the Prime Minister said last Friday: unless the economic conditions were right, a single currency would tear the European Union apart.

A single currency would not work unless the participating European economies were marching as one. The conditions for convergence of the European Union economies are unlikely to be in place for some time. The Maastricht treaty laid down guidelines for government debt, the budget deficit, inflation and long-term interest rates, which would certainly need to be satisfied before a single currency could be established. At the end of last year, at Essen, the forecasts predicted that by the end of 1996, the date from which a single currency could first be introduced, only Britain, Germany and Luxembourg seemed likely to satisfy these criteria. That is why I said about a year ago and have said several times since that



there is not a snowball's chance in Hades of Europe embarking successfully on economic and monetary union in 1997.

It would be folly for us to decide firmly now one way or the other simply in response to the short-term political pressures of today. As the Prime Minister said last week, "to say yes or no now is to operate on hunch not facts". That is why we opted at Maastricht to keep an open choice on whether or not we would decide to join EMU. We did so because we know that we must never again repeat the mistake of deciding to join in European policies late in the day after we had let the others write the rules. We also opted to play a full part in the work on EMU in order to influence that work before we exercised that choice.

The time has come for a sensible and an informed debate on these and many other serious issues. There are some in Europe who seem willing to disregard economic logic in a headlong dash for monetary union. For them, monetary

union is the necessary impetus to full political union. But the havoc that would result from a precipitous and badly prepared move to a single currency would undermine the political unity that the enthusiasts are seeking. At the other end of the spectrum are those who see any move to a single currency as an unacceptable undermining of this country's sovereignty that should be resisted at any cost.

Both these views are far too simplistic. They both assume that monetary union is a

gigantic step towards political union. For some that is seen as desirable. For others not so.

It is quite possible to have monetary union without political union. It is a mistake to believe that monetary union need be a huge step on the path to a federal Europe. The Austrian Schilling has been fixed against the Deutsche mark for thirteen years and Dutch short-term interest rates have not diverged from German rates by more than 0.8 per cent in 8 years. Yet nobody would deny that Austria and The Netherlands are

sovereign states. Britain and Ireland enjoyed a de facto monetary union for 50 years after Irish independence.

We must not allow the decision on whether or not to participate in a single currency to be clouded by political dogma. Any decision must be based on a hard-headed assessment of British national self-interest in terms of jobs, capital investment and our ability to sell our goods and services in world markets.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
Leading article, page 17

KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT EMU

What is Economic and Monetary Union? The proposal implies complete freedom of movement for people, goods, services and capital, irrevocably fixed exchange rates between the national currencies of the 15 states, the establishment of a single European central bank and a single currency — the ecu.

When might it happen? The final step, on which a decision is due next year, depends on the economic convergence of the participating states. All must be in the Exchange Rate Mechanism, from which Britain withdrew in 1992. Although no date for forming a single currency has been set, the target is 1999.

Can some countries move ahead faster? A hard core of countries — such as Germany, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria and Ireland — are eager to move ahead. There is talk of a two or three-tier EMU, with poorer or reluctant countries such as Greece and Britain joining later.

What would happen to sterling after EMU? It would continue to be used, but would have a fixed ecu value. **Is British business in favour?** Opinion is divided. The Confederation of British Industry is against closing the door on EMU, pointing out that 53 per cent of exports go to the EU, while the Institute of Directors has pointed to difficulties for small business. The City is also split.

SPEAKING OF A SINGLE CURRENCY...

Kenneth Clarke, June 29, 1994: "I have always been a supporter of economic and monetary union."

Clarke, Feb 2, 1995: "The British are not committed. It's a two way choice. It's a choice that I hope we'll exercise sensibly."

Michael Heseltine, Feb 5, 1995: "I don't know whether there will be a single currency... all I know that there is work going on all the time... The only question for Britain is whether we take part in that work, and of course there is only one answer — we take part because if we don't the Germans and the French will design arrangements in their interests and not ours."

John Major, early 1994: "My instincts are not in favour of it... I can conceive circumstances a long time in the distance where it may conceivably be in our economic interests... I do not believe these circumstances

will apply for a very long time, certainly not this side of the turn of the century or probably a long time after."

Major, Jan 8, 1995: "If other people decided to go ahead in 1996 to 1997 with a single currency, I would not advise the British Parliament to follow them."

Major, Feb 3, 1995: "We cannot accept that sterling should be part of a single currency in 1996 or 1997."

Major, Feb 7, 1995: "As far as a single currency later this year is concerned we would require all the specific Maastricht criteria to be met. In addition, we would require other criteria to be met."

Jonathan Aitken, Feb 5, 1995: "I don't want to see a single currency, period."

Michael Portillo, May 1, 1994: "A [single currency] would mean giving up the government of the UK. No British government can give up the government of the UK. That's impossible."

Chancellor's view of European union reinforces party division

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Kenneth Clarke wants Britain to be in a position to enter a European single currency at the end of the century. That is the implicit aim of his economic policies and the explicit theme of his speech last night to the European Movement.

Ostensibly, his purpose was to put forward a policy which could unify the Tory party. But his speech was a strong restatement of the pro-European case. It was a world away from the language used by the Cabinet sceptics.

The current manoeuvring is all about closing off and keeping open options. A month ago, John Major ruled out both British involvement in a single currency in 1996-97 and the necessary preparatory actions. Hard-core sceptics would like a Tory manifesto pledge against joining a single currency in the next Parliament. The pro-Europeans are determined to prevent that. They want to preserve the Maastricht treaty opt-out and leave the decision to Parliament at a later date by which time they hope that the economic and political pressures will have tilted in favour of joining.

The "keep calm" group,

headed by Douglas Hurd, argues that this is not an immediate question since very few countries, if any, will have fulfilled the treaty conditions for economic convergence by 1996-97. Hence, in the Foreign Secretary's characteristic words: "To say either yes or no now to the option which might occur in, say, 1999 would be quixotic and unnecessary."

The Tory party is not in such a rational mood. Mr Major last Friday put a sceptical gloss on the "open question" approach by saying that the Maastricht criteria are "a necessary but not a sufficient condition to justify a single currency."

Mr Clarke interpreted the agreed formula in a pro-European direction. His language may have been slightly more cautious than a year ago, but his intent was clear. He was less concerned to erect new hurdles to Britain's participation than to ensure that monetary union is created in such a way as to be successful. So Britain should be involved in designing how the European central bank should operate, not least to avoid the

problems since 1973 when Britain has sought to reform a Common Agricultural Policy designed to suit French and Italian interests.

Mr Clarke did not add new conditions. Rather he pointed out that the nominal guidelines for government debt, budget deficits, inflation rates and long-term interest rates are only part of the answer. In particular, he argued that countries with inflexible labour markets would be poor candidates since they would face higher unemployment and demand increased spending financed by transfers from rich countries.

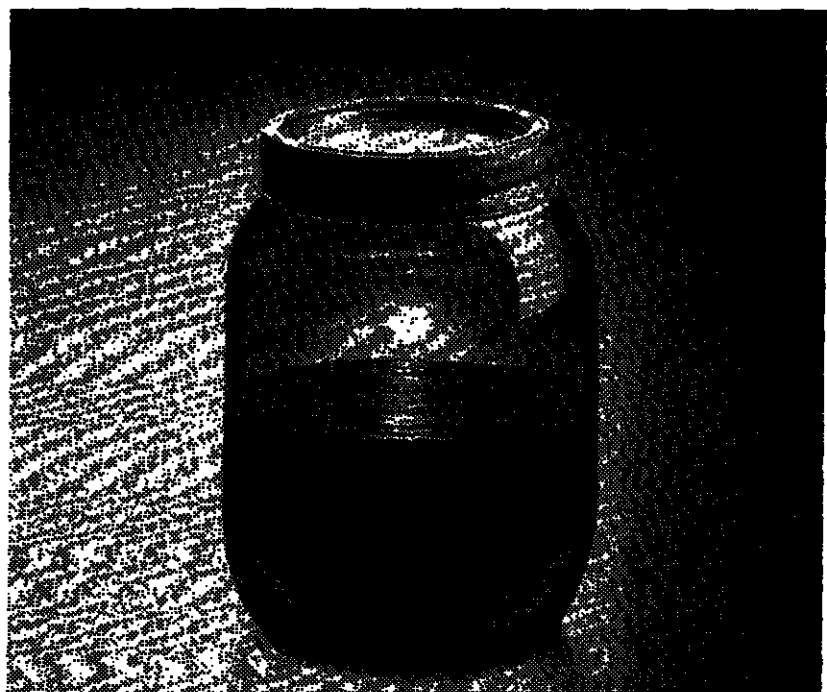
The implication is that Greece and other Mediterranean countries should be outside any monetary union even in the unlikely prospect that they fulfilled the financial guidelines. By contrast, Britain, or so ministers claim, has the most flexible labour markets in Europe. So, on Mr Clarke's argument, Britain should be able to fulfil both the financial and the broader labour market criteria for participation in a

northern European dominated monetary union.

But, crucially, Mr Clarke disputed the sceptics' view that monetary union would mean an unacceptable surrender of sovereignty and mean political union. Mr Major has also raised these worries. But Mr Clarke argued that "it is a mistake to believe that monetary union need be a huge step on the path to a Federal Europe". Accepting that some pooling of sovereignty was involved, as in other aspects of the European Union, he said that "like the French and the Germans, we should have the self-confidence in ourselves to believe that European politics does not threaten our national identity".

Mr Clarke believes that there are neither insuperable economic nor fundamental political objections to British involvement in a single currency. He was deliberately silent on whether there should be a referendum on monetary union, which he still opposes, though even Mr Hurd has accepted it as a possibility. Mr Clarke's speech will not produce even a short-term truce in the Tory battle on Europe.

By PETER RIDDELL



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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer East		North-South game	
♠ 82		♠ KQJ4	
♥ 10		♥ AQJ109	
♦ 109753		♦ KQJ9	
♣ 1082		♣ AKJ	
♠ 654		♠ K873	
		♥ 8643	
		♥ 864	
		♥ 953	
		♥ 2	
W	N	E	S
24 (2)	34 (3)	1NT (1)	Pass
Pass	54	24 (4)	34
		Dble	All pass

Contract: Five Diamonds Doubled, by South. Opening lead: ♠10

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

- 15-17
- Transfer bid, showing any strength of hand with at least five hearts
- North's double showed an opening bid with diamonds
- Two Spades showed a maximum INT with a heart fit and spade values.

When Terence Reese was playing backgammon and we all gathered round to scoff, he would silence us with "watch and wonder". Today's deal, from the Romanian National Teams Championship, is a "watch and wonder" hand.

The declarer was Imre Paul. It is easy to see that declarer has ten tricks but where is the eleventh to come from?

Declarer won the spade lead with the ace. He played a club to the ace and then the queen of clubs. If East covers, declarer ruffs and has his eleven tricks, so East ducked as declarer discarded a heart. Now the jack of clubs, also ducked as declarer discarded a second heart; and finally the ten of clubs which East had to cover and on which declarer discarded his last heart. He later ruffed dummy's singleton two of hearts in hand for his eleventh trick.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

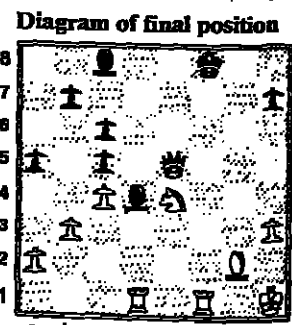
In the balance

Previous games between Valery Salov and Gata Kamsky indicate that their playing strengths are roughly level. Additionally, both men have been extremely successful in the past year. The following entertaining draw shows them fighting each other to a standstill with a sequence of neat tactics.

White: Salov
Black: Kamsky
Linares 1993

King's Indian Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	g6
3 Nf3	Bg7
4 g3	O-O
5 Bg2	d6
6 O-O	Nbd7
7 Ne3	e5
8 B3	e6
9 B3	Rb8
10 h3	exd4
11 Nx4	Nc5
12 Re1	a5
13 B4	Nf5
14 B3	Bc7
15 Qc2	Qc7
16 Rad1	Rd8
17 Bg5	h6
18 Bg3	Bb8
19 g4	Ng7
20 f4	g5
21 exf5	



Kamsky has seized what appears to be a decisive lead against Salov in the semifinals of the FIDE matches in Sanghi Nagar, India. Kamsky overwhelmed Salov in 35 moves yesterday to take a 2½-½ lead. In the other semifinal Anatoly Karpov suffered a setback, losing to Gelfand in 45 moves. Gelfand now leads 2-1.

Winning Move, page 40

Public sector pay: Government refusal to fund rises causes alarm among teachers and nurses

School governors fear increase in class sizes

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

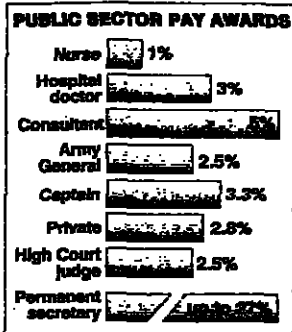
MINISTERS yesterday confirmed their hard line on teachers' pay, refusing extra help to fund a 2.7 per cent increase to be paid in April.

School governors and head teachers predicted that the decision would lead to a sharp rise in class sizes and the loss of thousands of teaching posts. But Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said the money could be found within existing budgets.

The School Teachers' Review Body, whose main recommendations were accepted by the Government in full, acknowledged that the increases could "put pressure on staffing levels". However, its report said that the position



Shephard: adhered to Cabinet ministers' hard line on increases in public sector pay



the lowest-paid qualified teacher, and a maximum for classroom staff in the largest comprehensive of £32,169. For the first time, unqualified staff will earn a minimum of £10,000.

The new 51-point scale for head teachers will run from £23,676 in the smallest primary schools to a maximum of £53,599. Although heads and their deputies will receive the same percentage rise as their staff, the review body encouraged governors to move towards performance-related pay in the allocation of extra money.

Almost three-quarters of classroom teachers will earn between £20,000 and £26,000 after the award comes into effect. The review body expressed the hope that "excellent teachers" would progress further up the scale through

the implementation of under-used incentives.

A survey of teachers' workloads published in the report showed an average 49-hour week among classroom staff in primary and secondary schools. Head teachers worked an average of 61 hours a week in secondary schools and 55 hours in primaries.

The review body opposed statutory constraints on teachers' hours or class sizes. But the report said the Department of Education should monitor the situation because there were "possible grounds for concern about the increasing pressure on school resources and the possible implications for teachers' workloads, their morale and motivation, and the quality of education they are able to provide".

Mrs Shephard said: "This is

a fair settlement for teachers. As the review body says, it reflects the need to recruit and retain good-quality teachers and it reflects teachers' central role in the efforts to raise the quality of what is achieved by schools."

However, teachers' unions were critical both of the size of the increase and the absence of extra resources to pay for it. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The award of 2.7 per cent is hardly enough to recruit, retain and motivate teachers when overall salary settlements across the private and public sectors are in excess of this figure."

Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, contrasted the increase with the increases offered to entrants to the top echelons of the Civil Service. "The Prime Minister claims to want a classless society but awards small increases to those earning less, and dangles high salaries to those coming in at the top," he said.

Mrs Shephard also accepted the review body's recommendation that governing bodies should be able to reward teachers for in-service training undertaken at weekends and in school holidays. She has repeatedly identified training as a pragmatic way of helping to lift educational standards.

The most significant clash between ministers and the review body is over the question of rewarding teachers who help with the initial training of student teachers. Mrs Shephard has insisted that governing bodies be allowed to pay those undertaking such work at their discretion.

Walter Ulrich, the spokesman for the National Association of Governors and Managers, said the award would produce the worst cuts in schools since local management was introduced. "Governors have been left at the sharp and sticky end of a squeeze which eventually will hit the children," he said.

Pay award, page 1
Libby Purves, page 14



Glennys White: "Where does it leave our self-esteem? I am not a volunteer."

'We are being offered the same money for more work'

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE mood in the staff room at Bonner Primary School in east London was one of nervous resignation at news of the teachers' 2.7 per cent pay increase. The prospect of earning a few hundred pounds more next year was overshadowed by concern at the financial implications for the school, its 413 children and teachers' own job security.

The verdict of Martin Tume, the deputy head, was: "The same money to do more work, while we will probably have to lose two out of 18 teachers." Fewer teachers

and the same number of children spelled more pressure and stress. Mr Tume, a teacher for 12 years, said the settlement divided his loyalties. As a manager, he wanted any award that was not funded by the Government to be as low as possible so the school could afford it. Personally, he hoped for an increase that amounted to more than treading water.

Lesley Barlow, the head teacher, calculated the economics. The Tower Hamlets school needs an extra £45,000 to keep spending at current levels but expects next year's

budget to be cut by more than £30,000. This gap would now widen because the council had assumed pay would increase by only 2 per cent.

Ms Barlow said: "Isn't it awful that I don't want a pay rise if it means that we are going to lose more teachers? We are professional people and we should be earning a professional salary."

Glennys White, a teacher for 25 years, said: "Talk of taking no pay increase plays into the hands of the Government. Where does it leave the profession's self-esteem? I am not a volunteer."

27% takes Whitehall ceiling to £150,000

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE salary of the most senior civil servants could rise to £150,000 under the recommendations of the review body on senior salaries, a potential 27 per cent increase on the present maximum.

The highest-paid civil servant is Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the Home Civil Service, who at present earns £118,179 a year.

To reduce the gap between top civil servants and senior managers in the private sector, the review body on senior salaries has for the first time recommended a pay range for permanent secretaries, running from £90,000 to £150,000. The previous minimum figure was £87,435. The report makes it clear that no one is likely to jump to the maximum figure

CIVIL SERVICE

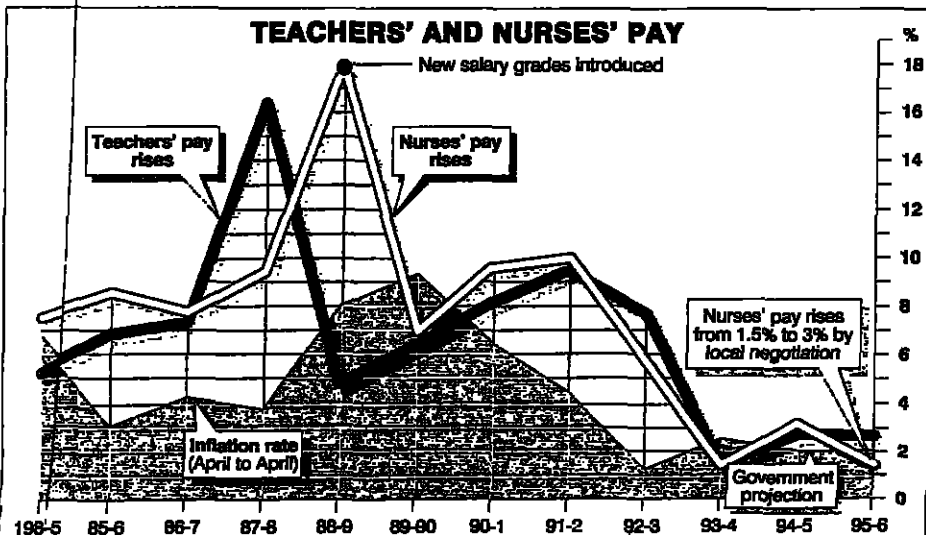
immediately but that the scale is intended to provide "adequate room for salary progression".

The new pay range, which will come into effect from April 1, covers 29 permanent secretaries. In addition to Sir Robin Butler they include Sir Terry Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, at present on £110,563.

A further 107 civil servants on grade two will find themselves on a range from £67,500 to £98,000 (at present £65,990 to £79,396). The 440 civil servants on grade three will be paid on a range from £55,000 to £82,500 (£52,704 to £64,283).

All rises will be performance-related and will be met from a 2.5 per cent increase in the basic pay bill.

Judges will receive an across-the-board 2.5 per cent rise. The salary of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will go up to £126,138 and for Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, to £118,179. The pay of High Court judges rises to £98,957 and of senior circuit judges to £85,241. Other circuit judges will receive £72,524 and district judges £59,327.



Efficiency must pay for increase

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S 440,000 nurses will receive a 1 per cent pay award nationally and up to 2 per cent more locally.

The April 1 increase will be a significant step in the Government's drive to introduce local pay bargaining throughout the NHS. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, said that there would be no extra money from the Government and the trust managers would be expected to find the increases through greater efficiency.

These increases are both far to staff and affordable for the NHS, she said. The

pay has gone up and there are growing nursing shortages. The college says local pay rises will fragment the service and lead to health ghettos in inner cities.

Unison, the public service union, condemned the award as an "appalling national scandal". It is calling for 2.5 per cent, the same as for hospital doctors. Bob Abberley, Unison head of health, said: "Nurses have been betrayed by this Government. A 1 per cent increase will give a staff nurse an insulting £2.17 extra a week."

Roy Lilley of the NHS Trust Federation called the award "good news for nurses because it means they can get up to 3 per cent locally. The potential is there and it puts nurses ahead of the game."

A 1 per cent rise will give a Grade D nurse a minimum of £11,435, compared with £11,320. A Grade G nurse will receive a minimum of £17,110 (£16,940) and a first-year nursing student £7,195 (£7,125).

Midwives, who are included, said the deal would lead to job losses and cuts in services. The Royal College of Midwives said that it would consider withdrawing goodwill and changing its policy which prohibits industrial action.

Consultants can earn £100,000

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL consultants have won up to a 5 per cent rise on a basic salary of around £50,000 under a complex deal designed to boost the attraction of local pay.

The British Medical Association withdrew its threat of industrial action as the Government drew back from imposing local pay on consultants. Instead, it offered up to twice the national rise of 2.5 per cent to consultants if they accepted local terms and conditions in negotiation with their employing NHS trust. The 2.5 per cent basic rise will

take the highest paid NHS consultant through the £100,000 barrier for the first time. A full-time NHS consultant with an A-plus merit award will earn £102,260 from April 1. A rise of 5 per cent would take their pay to £104,665.

Junior doctors will receive an across-the-board increase of 2.5 per cent plus an increase in overtime rates. For most junior house officers this will mean a rise of £530 to £22,020 for a 56-hour week. GPs will receive a 3 per cent increase to £43,165. Dentists receive 2.5

per cent. The BMA said few consultants were likely to take up the extra 2.5 per cent rise, worth £1,250 to the average consultant, on offer to those who agreed to a local deal.

"Consultants are not going to rush from the protection of national pay and conditions for that. These are people on salaries of £40,000-plus. £1,250 is not much of a carrot," a BMA spokesman said.

Since 1991 NHS trusts have had the freedom to negotiate local contracts with consultants, and pay them any salary they choose, but only 5 per cent of consultants have accepted the contracts. Consultants switching to local contracts forgo their right to future national pay awards. Ministers want to give NHS trusts greater freedom to respond to local shortages or recognise key staff.

The BMA has campaigned for over a year against local pay on the grounds that it would break the NHS up into hundreds of local businesses and damage the NHS's capacity to provide an equal standard of national care. The independent Doctors and Dentists Review Body has recommended the transitional scheme, with up to a 5 per cent rise.

NURSES

health service would receive an additional £1.3 billion in 1995-96, equal to a cash increase of 4.5 per cent. A further 3 per cent could be found from greater efficiency, Mrs Bottomley said. The full 3 per cent would cost up to £330 million in a full year in England.

The Royal College of Nursing led trust managers that nurse would "vote with their feet" and leave the service unless they were given the full 3 per cent. Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said: "This is not enough. Inflation has gone up, average

DOCTORS

we have no complaints." The agreement takes the pay of a brigadier up to £57,736, a major with four years' service to £31,483 and a senior warrant officer to £24,112.

The salary scales for brigadiers and below were set by the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay and the most senior officers' rises were recommended by the Senior

THE MILITARY

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
General	83,283	87,618	90,148	95,050	97,430
Brigadier	50,003	52,808	53,600	55,958	57,736
Colonel	42,808	45,315	45,984	48,016	49,494
Lt Col	36,848	38,913	39,497	41,204	42,501
Major	27,494	28,963	29,387	30,572	31,483
Captain	21,404	22,604	22,944	23,689	24,405
Private	9,494	10,016	10,165	10,297	10,581

Salaries Review Board. Apart from increased pay, the services will receive higher allowances, which will affect parachute pay, length of service increments, separation allowance, the "longer service at sea" bonus and other payments.

The review body paid particular attention to the separation allowance paid to

married personnel serving abroad without their families. The allowance is paid after a separation lasting more than 30 days in a year.

In spite of manpower cuts, the services' pay bill is taking an increasing proportion of the defence budget. The Ministry of Defence told the review body that unless sufficient savings were made through efficiency programmes and if the cost of personnel continued to be disproportionate, savings would have to be made elsewhere.

It said that even from time capabilities "could be affected", in spite of a pledge last year from Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, that the current round of cuts would impinge only on support services.

Armed services have 'no complaints'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 150 most senior officers in the armed services were awarded a 3.2 per cent pay rise which will cost an extra £40,000 on the annual salary bill. The award for generals, admirals and air marshals compares with an average rise of 2.6 per cent for the rest of the services. Senior privates will get an additional 2.5 per cent and 2.9 per cent, costing an additional £14 million.

The range of salaries now varies from £12,140 for the lowest private to £121,400 for the Chief of the Defence Staff, who is a field marshal. One officer said: "Given the other settlements,

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PLUS ALL SUPPLIED WITH MANUALS

First Briton floats out into the cold 240 miles above Earth

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE first spacewalk by a Briton, and also the first by a black astronaut, was cut short yesterday when both men complained of feeling cold.

Michael Foale and Bernard Harris had emerged into Discovery's cargo bay just after 12.10pm yesterday. Dr Foale's first words, though hardly memorable, had the virtue of being unscripted: "Golly, it's high, isn't it?" he said. "Don't look down," Dr Harris advised.

The two men had been scheduled to stay outside for five hours, testing improvements that have been made to the insulation of space suits, including thicker underwear, to enable astronauts to stay out for long periods constructing a space station.

Sitting on the shuttle's robot arm, they were moved into the darkness of Discovery's shadow, where temperatures fell as low as -125F. Clinging to one another 240 miles above the Earth, they waited motionless to see how cold they would get.

During this test, both men reported cold hands and feet. But it was not until later, when they were manhandling a satellite in the cargo bay, that their fingers got cold enough to worry Mission Control. They were instructed to stop work and start gathering tools and camera gear together. The space walk ended at 4.20pm.

While in the cargo bay the



Foale: kitted out for historic space walk

two astronauts had practised space station construction techniques by heaving a satellite to and fro. The Spartan satellite, released by Discovery two days earlier, had been recaptured by the robot arm after the shuttle successfully manoeuvred close to it yesterday morning.

While loose, Spartan had moved as far as 50 miles from Discovery, using a small telescope to observe the gas and dust between the stars. The data gathered will be analysed by scientists after Discovery returns to land at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida tomorrow.

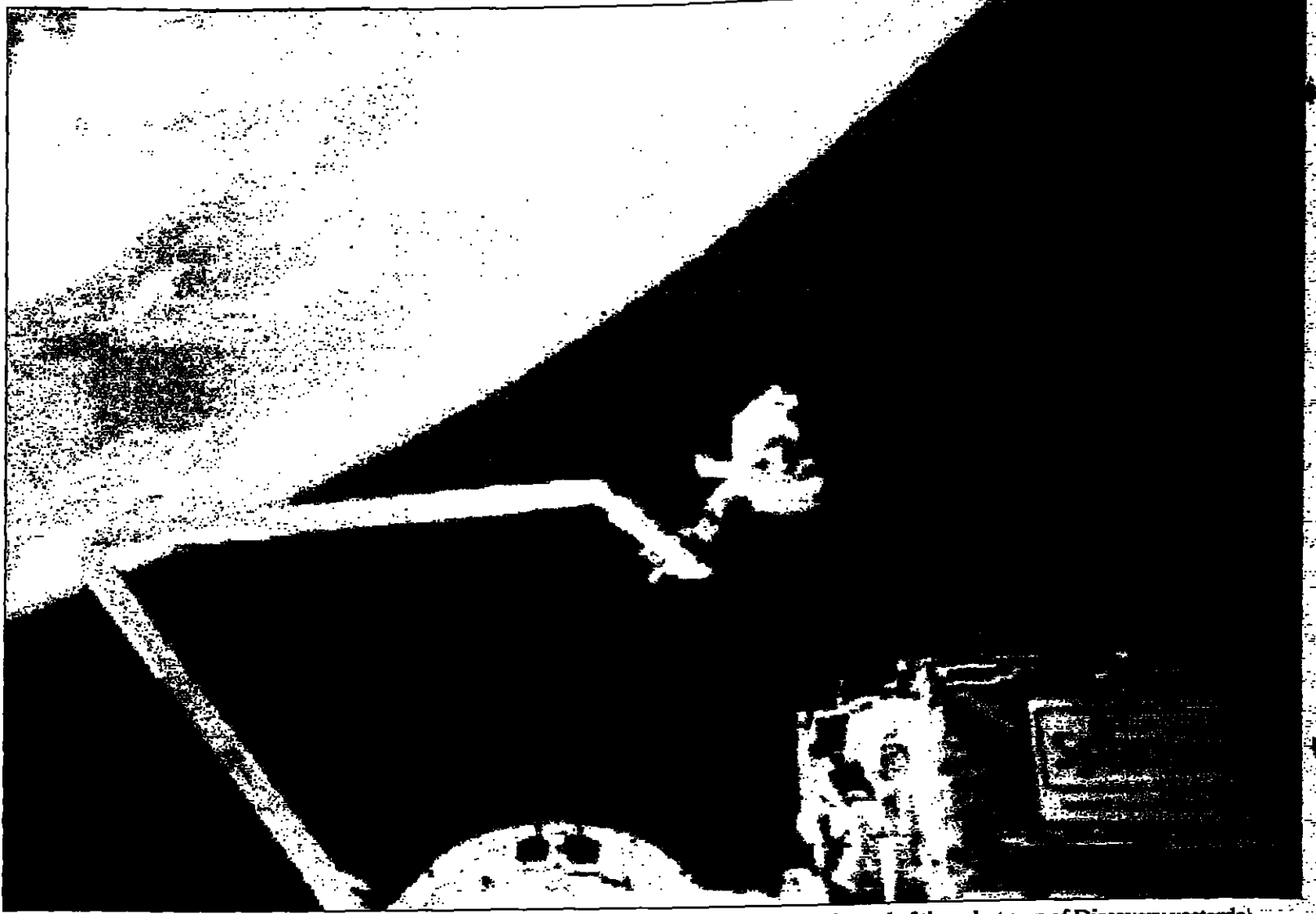
Dr Harris and Dr Foale were waiting in their space suits as Discovery sidled up to

the satellite and crewmate Janice Voss grabbed it with the robot arm. Dr Harris, one of two blacks among the space agency's 95 astronauts, was the first black spacewalker, while Dr Foale, who emigrated to America to achieve his ambition to fly in space, was the first British-born spacewalker.

Dr Harris used a handle that looked like a steering wheel to move the boxlike 5ft high satellite side-to-side, up-and-down, and end-over-end. Dr Foale was to have conducted the same tests, but he and Dr Harris were complaining so much about icy fingers that NASA told them to put Spartan in its berthing platform and get back inside. The shuttle cargo bay also was pointed toward the sun, and both men said they warmed up. "Sounds like we put you in the deep freeze today," Eileen Collins, the Discovery pilot, told them. "It was like putting my fingers in that liquid nitrogen freezer we have [at NASA]," Dr Foale said.

Apart from Monday, when Discovery made its close approach to the Russian Mir space station, yesterday was the busiest in the eight-day mission.

While the mission has been a success, the two spacewalkers' experiences suggest that NASA has more to do before astronauts can safely spend long hours in the shade building the space station.



Astronauts Bernard Harris, left, and Michael Foale cling to each other as they float at the end of the robot arm of Discovery yesterday.

Greece thwarts EU customs deal with Turkey

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

GREECE yesterday rejected a European Union proposal for a customs union with Turkey, reversing its earlier conditional acceptance and throwing into uncertainty a promise by the Fifteen to open talks with Cyprus on EU membership.

A government spokesman in Athens said after a special cabinet meeting that the Government of Andreas Papandreu believed there was room for improvement in the package. Unless the proposals were enhanced, Athens would continue to oppose the deal.

The Greek announcement appears to scupper the preliminary agreement reached by the 15 Foreign Ministers on Monday which would have lifted the Greek veto on the proposed EU customs union

in return for a guarantee that accession talks with Cyprus would begin no later than six months after the inter-governmental conference next year.

The Greek decision will cause consternation among its 14 EU partners. Their patience with Athens has already been stretched over its veto on Mediterranean funds for Turkey, and over its blockade of Macedonia. The decision will also be a bitter disappointment to the Cypriot Government, which welcomed the EU commitment to open talks on accession.

Cypriot diplomats yesterday refused to condemn Greece, but suggested that the decision had more to do with internal Greek politics than any quarrel with the Greek Cypriots.

President Karamanlis of Greece is stepping down in April, and the Socialist Government of Mr Papandreu wants a Socialist candidate to succeed him, but cannot be sure of enough votes. The opposition has already taunted the Government for being ready to accept a deal that gives Turkey an advantage without bringing anything to Greece in return. Mr Papandreu needs the votes of opposition MPs, especially those who have taken a more nationalist stance on Macedonia, the former Yugoslav republic, and Cyprus.

An EU customs union would bring tougher competition for many Greek products, especially textiles and fruit. Athens has also made much of

recent confrontations with Turkey concerning airspace over the Aegean Sea, and cannot now be seen to offer concessions to Ankara without driving a very hard bargain.

President Clerides of Cyprus said on Tuesday that he welcomed the EU decision as a "very positive step" opening the way for Cyprus's accession to the EU. He spoke of the "close co-operation and co-ordination" between the Greek and Cypriot Governments.

It is unclear now whether the EU will continue to honour its promise to open accession talks late next year or in 1997 if Athens continues to block the customs union. France, which holds the EU presidency and put forward

this package, is likely to seek a way of getting round the Greek decision or will propose a new package to satisfy the objections. EU talks with Turkey are due to resume on March 7.

The Greek spokesman said yesterday that Mr Papandreu will send representatives to all EU Governments outlining his objections. They are likely to get a frosty reception, especially from Germany, which is a strong supporter of closer relations with Turkey and backs the proposed package.

Greece also made it clear that it objected to the "negative climate" of Monday's meeting, which clearly blamed it for the present impasse. Yesterday's decision, however, will do

nothing to win understanding from the other partners for the Greek point of view.

Before the Greek announcement, Turkey also made clear its unhappiness with the package, saying that the admission of south Cyprus to the EU before a fair and lasting settlement would create "very serious obstacles in the way of a solution". Murat Karayalcin, the Foreign Minister, said the EU application by the Cypriot Government disregarded the Turkish community.

On a visit to northern Cyprus, Mr Karayalcin tried to quell fears that Ankara was making big concessions to Greece on Cyprus, saying that there was no change in Turkey's policy.

Conscription ends as Belgian armed forces are slashed

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

IN THE European dash to cash in the peace dividend offered by the end of the Cold War, no country has gone as far so fast as Belgium: the Government here passed a milestone yesterday by announcing the end of conscription.

Five years after the Soviet bloc and its Warsaw Pact alliance began falling apart, Nato's 16 members wrangle in public about Chechnya and Bosnia while quietly slimming their armies, air forces and navies. Belgium has put its military on the strictest diet seen throughout the alliance. From 106,000 men in uniform in 1990, the Belgian Government wants to cut that by more than half to 47,000 by the end of 1997.

After a cabinet meeting yesterday, the Defence Ministry announced that 816 conscripts currently enlisted would now be told to go home by the end of the month. Seven thousand relieved young people on the call-up list will be told that their services are no longer required. Five years

ago, Belgium had 35,000 militiamen on compulsory national service and has ruled on conscription for 86 years.

The dismantling of much of the Belgian military reflects a wider but less drastic shrinkage in all the states which built up huge armies during the Cold War. Belgium's defence budget has been reduced by 25 per cent in the past two years alone. Only Germany has cut its defence spending more sharply.

Belgium may have refused to sell ammunition to Britain during the Gulf War, but has been selling a great deal of equipment. Karel Pinxten, the Defence Minister, has recently been searching for money to replace the mortars issued to Belgium's parachute commandos which, he said, were 50 years old.

Waterloo remembered: Soldiers from ten nations will re-enact the Battle of Waterloo on June 18 to mark the 100th anniversary of Napoleon's defeat by Britain and its allies, the organisers said. (Reuters)



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Italians scorn suggestions that pasta might cause obesity

Italian blood boils over snub to pasta

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ITALIANS were incandescent yesterday after an American report questioned the virtues of eating pasta in what the media described as a "nationalistic campaign" against the Mediterranean diet.

This is simply paradoxical, said Professor Eugenio Del Toma, the president of the Italian Association of Dietitians. "There are physiological rules that cannot be subverted. It seems impossible to me that the Americans are the ones saying such things. They were the ones who in the 1950s carried out excellent studies on the Mediterranean diet."

The fuss started after American scientists, who once preached the virtue of a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet ruled that pasta can, after all, make you fat — and it's not just the sauce.

"Basta to Pasta," The New York Times declared after a front-page article pronounced that starchy foods were "the enemy again". The Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero* said that the report would make Americans think that pasta was "like a Mediterranean lover — very sensual but so very treacherous".

Ever since fatty food was put on the watch-list a decade ago, dieters have complained that they still gain weight when they switch to a low-fat regime rich with simple carbohydrates like pasta. Scientists say that recent research into the role of the hormone insulin suggests that simple carbohy-

drates may be causing weight gain.

Insulin processes sugar and starch, stimulating the liver to convert excess glucose into fat. The more insulin you produce, the more likely it is that you will convert dietary calories into fat. But about a quarter of Americans are "insulin resistant", meaning that they respond to sugar and starch by overproducing glucose, which then causes an overproduction of insulin and a resulting increase in fat.

Insulin resistance used to help people get through lean times by increasing the storage of energy as fat in times of plenty. But in today's world of excess, insulin resistance can cause steady weight gain.

Many dieticians now believe that the solution is a move away from simple carbohydrates like pasta towards a diet rich in complex carbohydrates like vegetables.

Dr Barry Sears, a researcher whose insulin-related diet tips helped Stanford University's swimming team win the college championship, has developed a regime that is higher in protein and lower in starch than is now common for sportsmen. The goal is to put people at peak performance.

Linda Carelli of Weight Watchers International, whose husband is an Italian-American, preaches old-fashioned common sense. "Pasta is a wonderful food. It's a question of over-indulgence."

THE TIMES



In tune: the London Symphony Orchestra's string section

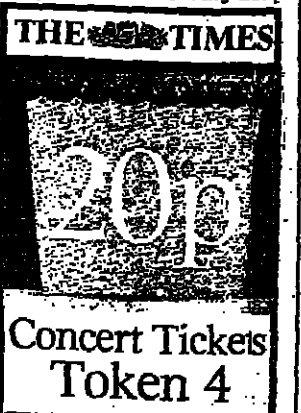
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Go to a concert and you can take a friend for the cost of Britain's greatest newspaper. The London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) is one of 40 orchestras and ensembles in The Times concert ticket offer. At more than 150 concerts in 40 halls all over the country you can take a guest for 20p.

Join the LSO for their family concert at the Barbican on the afternoon of March 25 and you could be making music rather than just listening to it. Richard McNicol has devised a programme that includes music by Gershwin, Chabrier, Beethoven and Delius, but the highlight of the afternoon is the special audience participation piece. Take along your own instrument (home-made instruments are very welcome) and join in the fun.

In more traditional vein, you could hear the LSO's performance of Tippett's *The Mask of Time* on February 26. Sir Colin Davis conducts the orchestra with the London Symphony Chorus. A full list of concerts available in London was printed on Tuesday and a regional listing will be printed next Tuesday.

To book your 20p tickets collect six of the tokens we are publishing during the next two weeks and then choose your concert. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 20p.



FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

Indian women queue up to vote in Nagpur as the city went to the polls yesterday

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

For, all the mounting despair about Mr Rao's performance, there is still a good chance that he will lead the party into the next election, if only because there are no viable alternatives. He was brought out of retirement as a compromise leader after Mr Gandhi's assassination.

BY JAMES PRINGLE

In Manila, the Government released pictures yesterday showing Chinese vessels and Chinese-built structures on the islands. Renato de Villa, the defence chief, said the photographs confirmed the Chinese flag flying over four structures.

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

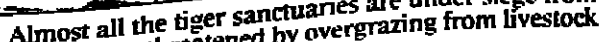
Four Muslim fundamentalists have been convicted for the bombing and 12 others are on trial in New York for a related conspiracy to launch a "day of terror" in New York. Prosecutors say Mr Yousef

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

With aid from the United Nations Development Programme, the Government has opened a Tiger Crisis Cell to work with intelligence agencies to combat poaching. The biggest threat, however, is the destruction of habitat for agriculture and grazing.

**FROM LAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON**

In exchange, Pyongyang would receive two efficient light-water reactors from which weapons-grade plutonium is more difficult to extract. A private, American-led consortium is underwriting the project, with South Korea and Japan bearing 80 per cent of the cost of \$4 billion. American negotiators say it was made quite clear to the North Koreans that South Korea would supply the reactors, although the agreement does not say so. Washington believes that Pyongyang is in a last-ditch pique over having to accept South Korean reactors.



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Pretoria refuses to send troops for UN's Angola force

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG AND SAM KILEY

THE South African Government said yesterday that it would not send troops to Angola as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force.

However, South African soldiers might help to remove mines, or provide logistical support to members of the UN force from Botswana or Zimbabwe.

Troops were sent by the apartheid administration to fight in the war against the Cuban-backed government forces in Angola, and Luanda has been unwilling to have them back, even since President Mandela's election victory. Some South African soldiers have, however, returned to help train Angolans in the techniques of lifting mines.

Alexandra Rodrigues, the Angolan Ambassador to Pretoria, yesterday met Mr Mandela and received an offer of help to find an estimated 26 million mines in the country. "We discussed sending soldiers to help in the demining process. We will decide how many soldiers will go next week," Mr Rodrigues said.

The UN Security Council has authorised a 7,000-member peacekeeping force for Angola in a second effort to end Africa's longest-running civil war. The vote on Wednesday was unanimous and Brazil, Uruguay, Romania, India, Pakistan and Zimbabwe have offered infantry for the task. About 500 British troops may help with logistics.

At least 500,000 Angolans have been killed since independence from Portugal in 1975, perhaps a third of them since the UN-sponsored elec-

tions collapsed in 1991 and the civil war resumed. Very few rebel Unita troops, and only slightly more government soldiers, had been demobilised before the election. Both sides hid weapons from UN observers, who did not have the mandate to guard or destroy armories. Violations of the ceasefire agreements were seldom publicised by the UN for fear of derailing the whole process.

Now, the UN has a tougher mandate, for peacekeeping rather than observing. Both sides can be expected to continue trying to cheat, just in case they decide to go back to war.

Both sides can be expected to continue trying to cheat, just in case they decide to go back to war

war. The success of their new mission will depend largely on the UN's ability to forget about its failure in Somalia. The images of dead American soldiers being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu and the memory of more than 130 peacekeepers who have died in Somalia since 1992, have become a pressing concern among UN military planners in New York.

The Security Council's resolution approves 6,450 infantry troops, 265 military staff, 350 military observers, 260 civilian police, 65 mine-clearing experts and at least 100 civil-

ian staff. The mission is expected to be in Angola for a maximum of two years at an annual cost of \$383 million (£243 million).

However, the bulk of the forces will not be deployed until government troops and Unita forces disengage and "quarantine areas" are designated for the rebel. Under an accord signed last November in Zambia, Unita fighters not destined for integration into the national army are to be demobilised; some are to be recruited in a police force.

The pivotal figure to the success or failure of the peace agreement is Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader. This week, the rebel movement held its first congress since 1990 in Bailundo, central Angola, and Dr Savimbi made a rare public appearance. "I do not think I am moved by the ambition of being President provided... I can play my role where I feel used and where I feel useful," he said.

"Everything has its time and its ways. If Jose Eduardo dos Santos is President now, we accept him as such provided he governs the country as we Angolans want, because we fought for this country. If he wants to fight us, then we do not think that he is the President we deserve," Dr Savimbi said.

If the UN can apply a tough and even hand during the demobilisation of Unita and its integration with the government forces, the blue helmets may have some chance of success in defusing the distrust between the two sides. But the 7,000 peacekeepers face a daunting task. They will



Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, in a rare public appearance in Angola this week

have to police an area the size of Britain, France and Spain. Angola is perhaps the most heavily mined country in the world, with an average of 2.5 mines for each of the ten million population. Few roads are passable because of the mines and the UN soldiers will need a huge fleet of

aircraft for transport, although there are have not yet been any international pledges to cover this need. The UN will also find it difficult to control arms shipments along Angola's Atlantic coast, and its porous border with Zaire.

Angolan government forces and Unita rebels have begun

their military disengagement. General Chris Garuba, who is leading the UN military operation, said yesterday in Luanda. Government and Unita troops have started pulling back from confrontation lines at Huambo in the centre and Uije in the north, under the terms of the ceasefire.

Rabin and Arafat fail to break peace impasse

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SUMMIT attempt to revive the ailing Middle East peace process failed yesterday when Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister, held their most acrimonious meeting since the outline accord was signed in Washington 17 months ago.

Officials on both sides said that the two men failed during more than two hours of talks to resolve any of the main disagreements holding up implementation of a process which is rapidly losing credibility among Israelis and Arabs. The only agreement was to meet again next week at the same location, a heavily-guarded base on the frontier between Israel and the newly-autonomous Gaza Strip.

The threat to the peace process posed by Palestinian extremists determined to sabotage the talks was underlined shortly before the meeting when a bomb exploded close to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in Gaza; a second booby-trapped device was dismantled. The attack, in which no one was injured, took place only miles from the spot on Monday where an Israeli civilian guard was killed and another wounded.

The main sticking points were Israel's insistence that the PLO impose tougher security measures against Islamic militants and other radicals in Gaza, and Mr Arafat's demand for an immediate end to Jewish settlement building and to the border closure which has kept 60,000 Palestinians from work in Israel for nearly three weeks. The Israeli Government attempted to play down the seriousness of

the impasse but the PLO was in no doubt about the dangers facing a process which is marked by deepening distrust on both sides.

"I think there is a crisis, a real crisis," Yasser Arafat, the influential Palestinian Information Minister, said. "There are two tendencies and two approaches."

Uri Dromi, chief spokesman of the Israeli Government, expressed scepticism about PLO claims to have clamped down on Palestinian extremists who have killed 55 Jews since last October and prompted a large number of Israelis to question the worth of continuing with the experiment which only two months ago won the leading figures the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr Dromi claimed that suspects detained by the Palestinian police had soon been released again. "The big problem is lack of resolve to deal with terrorism," he added.

Palestinian disillusionment with Israel's reluctance to move ahead to the next phase of the peace process — troop withdrawal from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Palestinian elections — has increased because yesterday's summit followed a 48-hour security clampdown in which the Palestinian police arrested about 100 radicals in Gaza and ordered the setting up of an Egyptian-style military court to try those accused of security offences.

Yossi Sarid, Israel's Environment Minister and one of those attending yesterday's meeting, admitted that the atmosphere had been unhappy. "We had great difficulties and differences," said the minister, regarded as one of the leading doves in Israel's centre-left Cabinet. "The commitment of the Government is first and foremost to the safety of the citizens of Israel. Our national security interests come before anything else."

The failure of the summit encouraged right-wing opposition parties in Israel, which are committed to scrapping the peace deal with the PLO if they return to power in the election next year. Since the recent wave of Islamic suicide attacks, opinion polls have shown the main Likud opposition grouping as heading for a landslide victory.



Rabin wants to see militants curbed

Israelis jail soldier for using cell phone

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli army, reputedly one of the most modern and technology-conscious in the world, has declared war on the widespread use of cellular phones — known in Hebrew as "miracle phones" — by soldiers on duty.

Yesterday, in what Israel Radio described as the first court martial of its kind, a soldier serving in the air force was sentenced to four days in detention for making a personal call from his mobile phone while guarding his base.

Military sources said that prosecution of the soldier was intended as a deterrent to others who have ignored the recent clampdown which restricts the use of private phones to barracks and common rooms.

The army was stung to action by repeated reports that soldiers in occupied south Lebanon had been using their mobile phones to order take-away pizzas for midnight delivery to the border.

Other incidents involved soldiers making calls to their loved ones just before they were due to go into action against Islamic extremists from the Hezbollah (Party of God) group, which is fighting a war of attrition against Israel and its local allies, the South Lebanon Army.

Terrorist attacks had made a mobile phone a valued part of the kit of any soldier able to afford one. At the site of last month's suicide bombing at a junction used by soldiers near the resort of Netanya, many of the survivors of the blast, which killed 21 Jews and wounded 62, begged journalists for the use of their portable phones to ring relatives and reassure them.

The craze for mobile telephones is so great that a leading rabbi had to step in last month and ban their use inside synagogues. He said that use of the phones was interfering with worshippers' communication with God.

White South Africans struggle for jobs

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A BUSINESS science graduate made national headlines here last night when, in desperation, he tied his CV and a job application to a homing pigeon and dispatched the bird to a Cape Town retail company. Intrigued by his novel approach, the company granted him an interview.

The story speaks volumes about white jobseekers in the new South Africa. Adrian Clayton, 24, had spent several months trying to get an interview. He noted gloomily: "For the first time in my life, my colour is working against me."

Affirmative action programmes have led to such a demand for black recruits that once-privileged white graduates are struggling to find work. So quickly is the picture

changing that many white-controlled companies will not even interview whites with first-class qualifications, saying they are only looking for black recruits. A survey last month disclosed that 87 per cent of companies have implemented such programmes.

Thrust upon a weak economy, affirmative action is turning the white job market upside down. "When my father graduated in the 1960s the doors were open," said Vanessa Valkin, 22, a psychology masters graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. "Now you have to be black to get through the doors."

Worst hit are white males, particularly Afrikaans speakers who traditionally found

sheltered employment in the public sector.

Andrew Swart, a careers consultant at the University of the Witwatersrand, said only 10 to 15 per cent of white graduates are finding work through university channels. There has been a shift from the public sector towards full-time or part-time work in the private sector.

Professor Deon van der Merwe, of the Rand Afrikaans University, said: "We advise students to obtain skills that will allow them to be their own boss."

The perception that the African National Congress is trying to swap one race group for another, allowing blacks with inferior academic records to be shoehorned through higher

education and into well-paid jobs, is breeding insecurity and resentment.

Returning this week for the start of the academic year, black and white students clashed in Johannesburg and Bloemfontein. "A lot of white students were saying this is racism in reverse and they are angry," Ms Valkin said.

There is no easy answer. Black South Africans make up 75 per cent of the 40 million population but less than 2 per cent of managers are black. What is clear is that imagination and hard work are essential for any young white South African. Some will emigrate but the overwhelming majority seem to accept that there must be a shift in emphasis after the apartheid years.

Nigeria civil servants take over ministries

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN LAGOS

SENIOR civil servants yesterday took over the running of Nigeria's federal ministries after the military junta dissolved the executive Government, a source said here.

The ministries are to be run by their directors-general in place of ministers in the Federal Executive Council, which was abolished by General Sani Abacha's regime on Wednesday.

Announcing the dissolution in the capital, Abuja, Oladipo Diya, General Abacha's deputy, said the aim was to allow ministers time to participate in the associations that are forming in anticipation of political activity being legalised.

The junta, which seized

power in November 1993, then scrapped all political institutions. However, it vowed eventually to restore democratic civilian rule.

General Diya said that in view of the formation of new political groups it would be "unfair" to ministers who "we have called on board to allow them to be marginalised by these political associations". Some ministers had indicated their intention to leave and General Abacha had commended their "vision and spirit of nationalism", having agreed to serve at "the time the nation was almost sinking".

General Abacha had been expected to lift the ban on political parties last month.

Italian is killed in Somalia

Mogadishu: An Italian cameraman was killed and four people wounded in separate attacks in Somalia as supporters of General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the warlord, protested against the American-led evacuation of United Nations troops.

Marcello Palmisano was shot dead in an ambush yesterday and an Italian woman and three Somalis were hurt when their car was fired on. About 2,500 US Marines are expected to assist the departing UN peacekeeping forces. (Reuters)

Asylum denied

Canberra: Australia's Parliament has passed tough new laws denying asylum to hundreds of Asian boat people in detention in the country, bringing them closer to deportation. (Reuters)

Minister fired

Khartoum: Hussein Abu Saleh, the Sudanese Foreign Minister, has lost his job in a large-scale Cabinet reshuffle. He has been replaced by Ali Taha, a former Social Planning Minister. (AFP)

Officer quits

Johannesburg: Lieutenant-General Johan le Roux, one of four senior South African police officers accused of supplying arms to opponents of the African National Congress, is to retire early. (AFP)

Rebel is ill

Geneva: Abassi Madani, head of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front, is in hospital and his deputy, Ali Belhaj, under house arrest at a new location. Algeria's Foreign Minister said. (AFP)

Ghost busters

Harare: Police used teargas to disperse a crowd of 1,000 gathered outside a house hoping to see the ghost of a woman knitting — burglars had told a maid they had seen it to scare her off. (AFP)

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WORLD OF LEATHER

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Calling your opponent a dimwit or a twerp in the House of Commons a century ago would barely have raised an eyebrow

A Member's guide to elegant abuse

BETTY BOOTHROYD has been seething this week at the antics of her MPs. She turned a blind eye on Monday when one of them was accused of wielding a pickaxe at a group of motorway protesters. But on Tuesday the Prime Minister called Tony Blair a "dimwit" and by Wednesday the whole House seemed to be accusing each other of being "nitwits" or "bullshitters" and Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, was insulting rail commuters by calling them "dreadful human beings".

The Speaker of the House had had enough. Pulling herself up to her full five feet two inches, steel ringlets bobbing, she declared that MPs' behaviour was spiralling out of control and she would no longer put up with all this name-calling and spiteful invective.

She told an unusually hushed House, "Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language. I do hope that in future interventions all Members will bear that in mind

and we shall make use of the richness of the English language to select elegant phrases that express their meaning without causing offence to others."

Miss Boothroyd is angry that MPs sloppy taunts and uncouth gibes are bringing the House into disrepute.

In fact she is extremely lucky. MPs in the 1990s are a model of decorum compared with many of their predecessors. It is now rare for a minister to make a speech when drunk. But both Pitt the younger and Asquith did so and Pitt, a port drinker, used to go behind the Speaker's chair to vomit before making an important intervention in debate. Liverpool favoured a whiff of ether and Canning a dose of laudanum.

In the last 20 years only Michael Heseltine has been known to resort to a

violent gesture in the House, when he waved the mace in 1976. But between 1750 and early Victorian times challenging someone to a duel provided frequent entertainment. Pitt the younger and Shelbourne fought duels. Mr Major calling Mr Blair a "dimwit" pales in comparison with Palmerston having a bloody fist-fight with another future Prime Minister, Aberdeen.

Miss Boothroyd warns that "good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language", but most MPs will tell you that ridicule and disdain make a far better parliamentary answer. If anything Miss Boothroyd should chastise MPs on the

poor quality of their vitriol.

A century ago the kind of language the Speaker was having to censor were jokes like "half pantaloon and half highwayman", "lackadaisical and whimsical", "noble and learned camels", and suggesting an MP was "returned by the refuse of a large constituency". Recently MPs have resorted to "you little twerps" or "amiable dumbbells" or "hamsters".

The Speaker's rules have always meant using imagination. Accusing someone of being drunk or a liar has always remained an unparliamentary term.

According to an anthology of MPs'

nonsense. *Nothing Good Will Ever Come Of It*, by Phil Mason, Norwegian and Icelandic abuse is fine but the French *merde* is not allowed. You may call a group of MPs hypocrites and frauds and accuse them of bribery, treachery and hypocrisy. "MPs used to be incredibly inventive: now they just tend to be rude. The insult used to be an art form; now it is more likely to be uttered in anger or frustration. The worst and most tedious language came in the 1980s when MPs were always trying out four-letter words," Mr Mason says.

Miss Boothroyd is far more prudish than many of her predecessors. "Telling porkies, you say. I think we will not have that word: I had to look it up in the dictionary." Mrs Boothroyd rebuked one MP in 1992.



ALICE THOMSON

But our Speaker's linguistic test will allow bunk, humbug and fatheads: Tony Banks, known for his colourful language, once got away with calling Terry Dicks, "an inflated pig's bladder on a stick", while the Labour MP Dennis Skinner won with "wally" but lost with "wimp".

You may call Dame Jill Knight a mean and silly woman, and Kenneth Baker a cruel swine, but not "Mr Oil Slick". Nigel Lawson may not be referred to as a "fat boulder".

GREG KNIGHT, Tory MP and author of *Honourable Insults*, blames the lack of quality contumely on television. "MPs realise they are being beamed into the sitting rooms of Britain and tend to dry up on subtle abuse and instead go for the 'dimwit' soundbite which they think the electorate can understand. Disraeli and Gladstone were so bitter they would have made people today choke on their cornflakes."

I believe in God, not in getting on

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets the Archdeacon of York, who believes we are losing our sense of sin

The Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin, lives in a plain, chilly semi in a pretty suburb of York. He is a tall, fat man with a bland, boyish face and voice to match, who opens the front door in a cosy green cardie and fading tartan slippers.

You would not think that this man's telephone number was vital to every journalist's contact book; that this fleshy-faced vicar could provoke any more controversy than a local hussle over which parishioner's jam he favoured at the bring-and-buy sale. Yet, in the Church of England, the sound of Mr Austin's voice can reduce clergymen to apoplexy, warm the hearts of middle England and delight anybody keen to witness a good old row.

Most of us know Mr Austin from events a year last December when he appeared on Radio 4's *Today* programme to talk about the newly separated Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince, said Mr Austin, was not fit to govern this country. He had made wedding vows, which he had almost immediately broken, so how could he then go into Westminster Abbey and make coronation vows?

In the ensuing outcry the bishops closed ranks, but the public applauded Mr Austin's outspokenness.

It was by no means, however, the first time that Mr Austin, 63, had come to the bishops' attention. A regular contributor to newspapers and *Today*'s "Thought for the Day", Mr Austin had long been notorious for his unerring ability to criticise liberal tendencies in the Church of England, especially with regard to the ordination of women. After one outburst his boss, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, famously compared him to the Fat Boy in *The Pickwick Papers* who sneaks up on timid women, saying "I want to make your flesh creep."

Now, the latest Austin storm looks set to commence. Next Thursday, amid levels of hyperbole usually reserved for the latest Martin Amis, he publishes a book: *Affairs of State, Leadership, Religion and Society*, where he expands on his earlier comments. Cue for bickering from Mr Austin's enemies, who dismiss him as a publicity-seeking buffoon. But the idea for the book was not Mr Austin's, but that of the publisher, Hodder & Stoughton, who recognised its headline-hogging potential.

They are going to town on it," admits Mr Austin, resplendent in leather armchair, grasping a coffee mug with sausage fingers. "It's very curious. Publicity is something

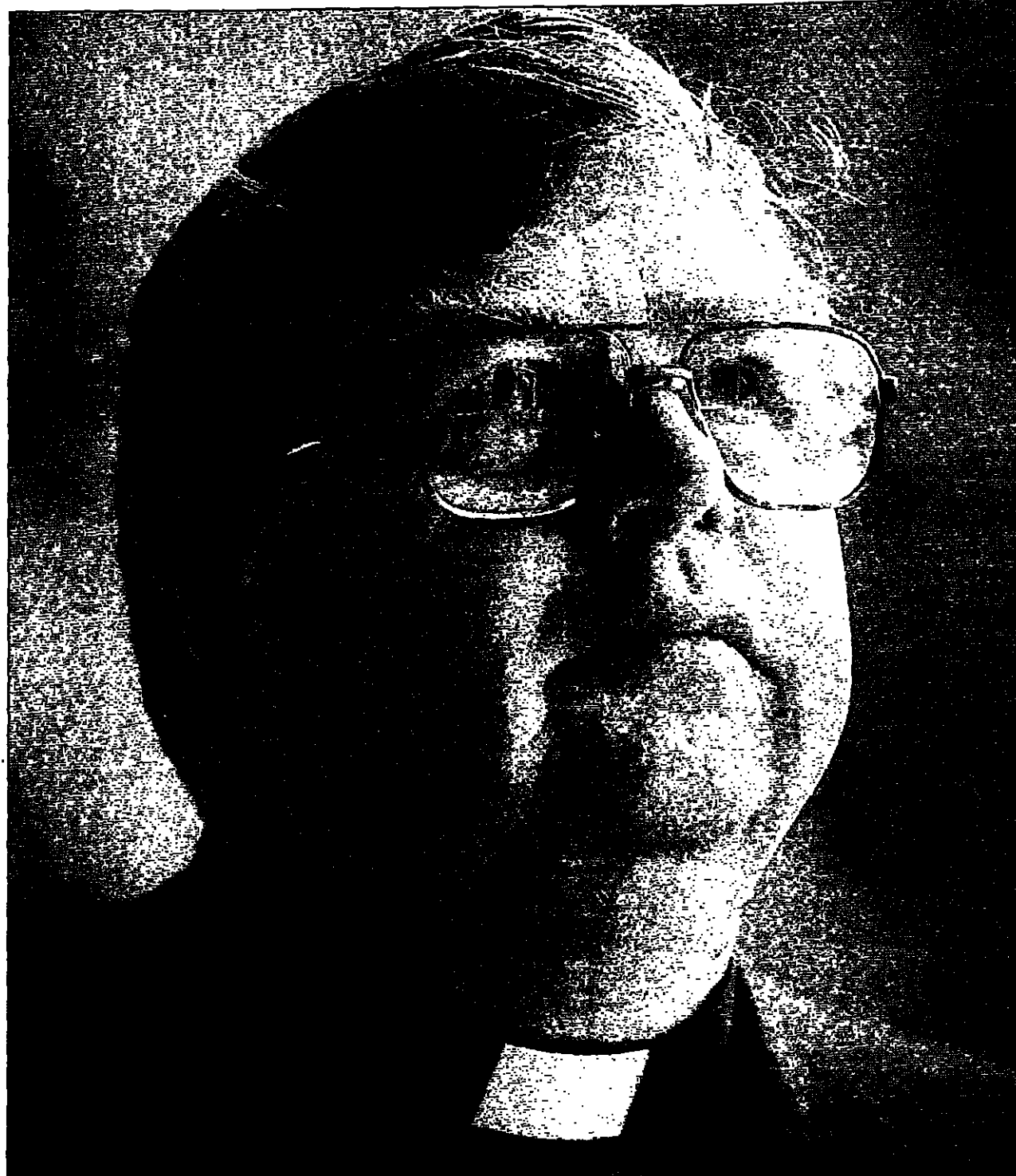
I have never looked for. People have just come along and said 'Will you do this?'

It is not, however, as if Mr Austin has been chosen at random. The media love him because he is one of the few clergy prepared to question his leaders, thereby scuppering any chance of advancement. "I've never been worried about promotion hopes," he says.

It is a claim he explores in his autobiography, *Journey to Hope*, where he concludes that his tobaccoist father's reluctance to praise led him never to seek glory in human terms. "I would like my epitaph to be 'faithful but not successful'. I don't think we are called to be successful."

Such sentiments are precisely what endear Mr Austin to the Church's grassroots, where many would be delighted to see him a bishop. It won't happen, though. "You have to write the right kind of speeches and promote the right kind of beliefs or you won't get preferment. The system produces nonentities or people who have conditioned themselves not to say startling things."

Startling things, for example, about the morality of public figures, things which Mr Austin has always maintained should rightly be said by his superiors. "I think the



"The system produces people who have conditioned themselves not to say startling things," says George Austin

Church has gone too far in not being prepared to challenge. People are damaging the family and damaging society. All of us need to be more moral. If you can't trust anybody, then society collapses."

And leaders have a duty to inspire this trust and to set an example — a duty, Mr Austin maintains, that the Prince of Wales has not fulfilled.

But why should the Prince's disastrous private life have

any bearing on his public role? "Look," says Mr Austin. "Clearly the marriage is over and there has to be blame on both sides. But I think Charles needs to accept responsibility for his actions. He said he didn't commit adultery until his wife was impossible to live with. But how far was it impossible because of the non-adulterous friendship with Camilla Parker Bowles that carried on before and during

the marriage. I mean, there's friendship and friendship and if I had to put up with a friendship like that I'd want to throw things and get angry."

It seems an unlikely scenario. Mr Austin has been married to Bobbie for 32 years and his conversation is peppered with fond references to her. She was a school teacher in St Albans until six years ago, when Mr Austin was promoted to his current position in the

North. As we speak, she is sitting upstairs doing her husband's secretarial work. They have a journalist son called Jeremy, who sends them to see avant-garde films that they don't always enjoy. It is an exemplary life, but does that give Mr Austin the right to cast the first stone? It is an argument he counters frequently, devoting a whole chapter of his book to it. "Yes, Jesus did say, 'Let him who is

without sin', but he also said in the woman taken in adultery, 'Go and sin no more.' No one will say that and there's a diminishing sense in society that some things are sinful and wrong."

It is not as if Mr Austin is demanding that the future King of England crawl up the Mall in a horsehair shirt. "He should say, 'All right, I have been foolish, I'm so sorry. I just want to be left alone.' I think people would recognise his honesty and courage, and in those circumstances he probably could marry again, although I don't know about in church."

"It is all a question of accepting responsibility. These days everybody blames everybody else. Charles blames his father for making him get married; ministers

I would like my epitaph to be 'faithful but not successful'

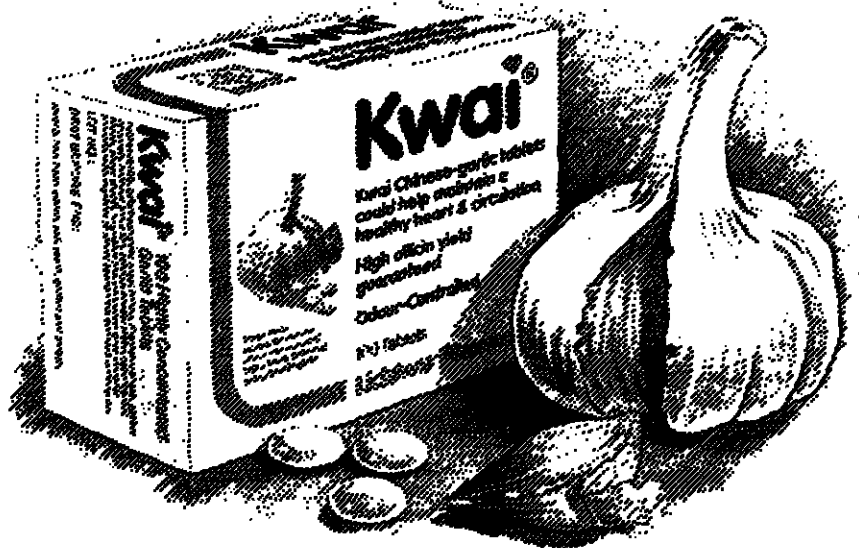
don't go until they are pushed; the goalkeeper starts pointing at the other players as soon as he lets a goal in."

Mr Austin, however, is determined to be counted, whatever the cost. His chubbiness suggests wellbeing and jollity, but Mr Austin is far from at ease with his situation. His hate mail used to leave him feeling sick; now he is nearly immune. "But a retired bishop wrote me a letter after 'Thought for the Day' that was couched in obscene language. That sort of thing still shakes me."

"My son makes rude remarks about being a renegade and Bobbie says people must say, 'Not him again!' Sometimes I say to her: 'Oh, I'm sick of it: fighting, fighting, fighting for the things I should need to do.' And what things should Mr Austin need to fight for? He sighs ruefully. "I will have been 40 years in holy orders next July and the Church is taking a turn I never could have expected. Now we have priests who say it's possible for them not to believe in God. Actually, I think there are reasons why priests should believe. It ought to be totally unnecessary to say that."

● *Affairs of State*, Hodder & Stoughton, £5.99

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Every teacher's small class struggle

Should we put our children in big classes or small ones? Don't ask Whitehall, Libby Purves suggests

Rural school governors, threatening civil disobedience? What next — rioting JPs? Lord Lieutenants rocking ministerial limousines? A merger between the Rotary Club and Class War? Rumours we live in. But worse than the actual protest is the eerie evidence of discord between the way Whitehall thinks and the way the rest of us do. This is not just a sensible recession-time argument on how best to keep the wolf from the door; we are not even agreed on who the wolf is.

Take one example, which has been bothering me for some time. In every financial plea from schools and local authorities, the fear is expressed that with staff cuts, class sizes will rise. The idea worries parents, governors and teachers, especially at primary level. They automatically think of large classes as a Bad Thing. Parents who buy independent education say that one of their main reasons is the small classes. Low class numbers are therefore not only an electorate's desire, but a market force; and we are told to be responsive to those, are we not?

But when campaigners do raise the spectre of bigger classes, Government does not respond directly, or say "yes,

that mustn't happen". It just urges using up reserves and increasing efficiency; and speaks with horror of "empty desks" — even though to some parents, it would seem rather a good thing if desks 25 to 44 were to remain empty in their own child's classroom. And the fact is that if you ask them directly, as I did for the umpteenth time yesterday, the Department for Education will reveal the interesting fact that, as a matter of fact, they don't mind if classes — even in primary schools — get bigger.

Their spokesman will say "the evidence is that there is no direct correlation between class size and achievement. The important thing is the quality of the teacher." Giving evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee last summer, Baroness Blatch cited Taiwan to prove that large classes can produce a satisfactory workforce. If you ask an education minister, face to face, to tell you in all sincerity that it does not matter if five-year-olds end up 40 to a class, the minister will reply that the case for small classes is not proven. This is the party line. As for the law, the 1944 Education Act set a limit of 40 but was revoked in 1969; so there is nothing to stop your small child being put into a very large class indeed. No



Classroom, 1926: did many heads make better work?

law to stop it: clearly no political will either. If many schools do in fact keep primary school classes to 25 or fewer, it is not because of national policy but because the schools themselves are making immense efforts, off their own bat. I am not sure that enough people know that.

Note that I have kept maternal emotion and experience out of it so far. Frankly, to parents of young children it seems so glaringly obvious that they learn better in small groups that the maternal impulse right now is to scream and bite the carpet. The difference be-

tween the Japanese or Taiwanese model of education and society and our own is also something so obvious that there is no point even discussing it with anyone who hasn't noticed: it would be like showing an elephant to a man who insisted on keeping a stout paper bag over his head.

There are those, gripped by nostalgia for sepia pictures of Victorian board-schools, who sincerely believe that a class of 45 six-year-olds can efficiently be taught the national curriculum by one teacher. But few of those people are teachers; and none of them, I suspect, has much experience of life in the back three rows.

Banish emotion then, banish intuition, ignore even the wishes of parents and the evidence of market forces. Try facts. In The Netherlands, France, America, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand primary classes are between 15 and 20. In Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Austria and Sweden they are under 15. Eight European countries limit them by law. Recent research in Tennessee and Texas shows that being taught in small groups from the start confers a benefit which lasts for several years afterwards, even if pupils go on to bigger classes.

The National Commission on Education, briefed by the leading researcher in the field, Professor Peter Mortimore, backs a dramatic lowering of primary class sizes. Sir Christopher Ball, director of the Royal Society of Arts, goes further and argues that we have actually got education upside-down, and that the smaller the child, the smaller its optimum class. The "rule of thumb" he provocatively suggests is that the group number should be double the child's age. This would be rough on all those teachers who enjoy a dignified, unflustered lifestyle with small and motivated six-form groups — poor devils, must they retrain as reception teachers? — but it makes a strong appeal to common sense. Small children, after all, need adults most. Anyone can see that.

Well, almost anyone.

John 1:1-5

John Hume on a lifetime's journey from the Bogside to the conference table



John Hume: words, delivered with a mesmeric gaze and a prodding finger, have been his only weapon — "You keep on saying the same thing until somebody says it back to you"

The eyes of John Hume, magnified by glasses under beaming black brows, fix the listener with an unrelenting gaze, with the occasional prod of a finger for added emphasis. Face to face with the gently mesmerising manner of the SDLP leader, it is easy to understand how even a man of violence might be persuaded to lay down his arms.

We met in Brussels this week, in one of the big international hotels where the constant background music of 1950s hits formed an incongruous chorus of *Lipstick on Your Collar* and *Whatever Will Be, Will Be* to Hume's softly whispered, almost inaudible words.

Words are the only weapon he has ever used, and he uses the same phrases again and again. "I learnt that when I was a teacher. You keep on saying the same thing over and over until somebody says it back to you."

The one word he keeps repeating is agreement. "Agreement threatens nobody," he says, prodding. "What is better, conflict or dialogue? Dialogue is the true weapon of peace. Never in my life have I fallen out with anyone so far that I couldn't still talk to them." He is having lunch with Ian Paisley

An eye for an eye leaves us all blind

next Tuesday in Strasbourg. "Peace is more important than politics," he says.

Since his talks with Gerry Adams, which had been going on since 1988, first became public, Hume has shown great courage, reviled even within his own party. The stresses and tension made him ill last year. He never stops travelling, working, worrying and smoking. "I was attacked on all sides for talking to Gerry Adams. But had we not talked, there would be no Downing Street Declaration and no peace. Five British governments have not stopped the killing on our streets. Twenty thousand soldiers have not stopped the killing. For the most honourable reasons, I talked secretly with the IRA when there was no peace. I talk openly to Sinn Féin now there is peace. And my challenge to my opponents is (here

his whisper becomes almost menacingly fierce): give me your alternative!"

He had been disturbed by *The Times's* printing of the leaked Anglo-Irish document last week, and even more distressed by the Unionists' reaction. 150 days into the ceasefire, "It was a distraction, a party-political game being played out by those who want to be able to say 'I told you so', obscuring the fact that for the first time ever, all energies are directed towards agreement. I don't want it to be a victory for one side or the other. I want agreement to emerge."

For the first time in our history, both governments and all parties have agreed to come to the table, committed to an agreement. Let us stay on that road. Any new agreement reached between North and South would be subject to a referendum on one day, requiring a 'Yes' from each side. If either side says 'No', then it's not on. The people of Ireland as a whole will have spoken. And if they speak in agreement, nobody will be able to question it, and we will have the basis for order and stability.

His faith in the possibility of agreement seems touching, and he has an example of it in his own home city of Derry, where the Troubles started 25 years ago when Londonderry was run by the Unionist minority, and Catholics suffered under the gerrymandering voting system. The city is run today by the SDLP. "But," Hume says, "we put into practice our philosophy of respect for diversity. The mayor changes every year; this year it's a Unionist. Our common ground is our city. We have a mutual respect for difference, which are no more than an accident of birth."

Last week the itinerant peace-monger was in Derry on Monday, London on Tuesday, Brussels on Wednesday, Dublin on Thursday, and Davos (at the World Economic Conference) on Friday, where he spoke on peace and reconciliation, with Shimon Peres and the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and South Africa. "If my mother came out of her grave she would never believe it," he says, "she never left Derry in

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



her whole life." At Davos he was inundated with requests to speak — in South Africa, Bosnia, Pakistan, and all over the United States, where universities garland him with doctorates.

He might have had a quiet, obscure life as a Catholic priest. He was the eldest of seven; the only one who passed the 11-plus and got educated — a scholarship boy at St Columba's, followed by St Patrick's seminary at Maynooth. Great was his parents' pride; and hard was the decision to give up the priesthood.

"I became what was known then as a 'spoiled priest'. Instead he read for a degree in history and French, and taught at a Catholic school. But he also led a self-help movement in Derry, founding a credit union which still flourishes there; and in 1952 he started Atlantic Harvest, a smoked salmon business, when he saw that fresh salmon from the Foyle estuary were being sent elsewhere to be smoked. This early example of a cross-border agreement between the Unionist Government of Northern Ireland and the Irish Government still produces 'the best smoked salmon in Europe', although he sold his half-share in it the day he was first elected (as an Independent, in 1969) on the principle that a politician should not be a businessman. He also wanted to bottle the local spring water, but at the time everyone thought him mad, as water came out of taps. "If I'd given my life to business and industry," he says, "I'd be lot better off than I am today."

His father, unemployed since the war, spent his evenings writing beautiful copperplate letters on behalf of those who could not write. His mother, who could write no more than her name, spent her evenings making collars. Young John did his homework at the same wooden table. When there was a flag-waving nationalist meeting in the street, Hume's father told him: "Don't get involved in that stuff, son. You can't eat a flag." Hume learnt early to reject the idea that patriotism meant dying for Ireland, which was very closely allied to killing for Ireland.

"I stood up against violence throughout my life. I opposed the IRA for 20 years in my own streets in the middle of Bogside. The SDLP and Sinn Féin have fought the bitterest elections," Hume's own five children have grown up with the Troubles, and seen the family home in the Bogside attacked nine times; five masked men fire-bombed it one night — when Hume's wife, Pat, and one daughter were inside. (Pat, or 'the wee wife' as he refers to her, runs his office in Derry, where 300 applicants arrive each week. "I couldn't do anything without her. We are a team. I am a packet, and she delivers me.") Their cars were blown up, the house was daubed and picketed by IRA supporters.

But Hume's favourite refrain is Martin Luther King's "the doctrine of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind". On Tuesday he met John Major at the House of Commons, and thanked him for his television speech. "John Major gave me total commitment from day one," he says, "and the British Prime Minister who achieves peace will go down in history, where Gladstone failed, Lloyd George failed, Churchill failed."

"Given the bitterness and prejudice of our history, it will not be easy. But let's spill sweat over it, not blood." He has said that line about spilling sweat not blood many times. "The Unionists have always accused me of wanting to impose a united Ireland. They do not listen to a word I say. For 25 years I have been saying we want an agreed future for Ireland. Whatever

form that agreement takes, once it becomes an agreement the quarrel is over, and the healing will take place. The real border of Ireland is not a line on a map, it is a border in the hearts and minds of people, two opposing mind-sets entrenched in the harsh and terrible past, which have got to change."

He recognises and approves of the Unionists' objective: to protect their heritage and their identity. "But they have a larger mentality. They think the only way they can protect the North is by holding all the power in their own hands — which is what led to the one-party state and 60 years of discrimination. What we need in Northern Ireland is a Unionist de Klerk. He recognised that he had to reach agreement with the people with whom he shared a piece of earth, but respecting the rights of his own people too."

"My challenge to the Unionists is simple. We cannot live without you. Come to the table and make an agreement that will protect your heritage for ever. On the other side of the divide is the territorial mind-set: 'This is our land, and you are a minority.' To them I say, it is people who have rights, not territory."

He has been a member of the European Parliament since 1979 and to him, Europe represents the most inspiring example of how former enemies can reach agreement in a way unimaginable 50 years ago. "What will emerge, a couple of generations after the healing process takes place, is a new Ireland, whose model will be very different from the past."

"My dream is that the next century will be the first in Ireland's history with no bloodshed on the streets — and no young people emigrating. [He has a brother in Australia, a son in Boston.] Peace in the streets has already created an enormous change of mood among people. Nobody will dare go back to the trenches of the last 25 years." What about the Semtex bomb defused at Newry? "Well, the IRA have denied it, and having been the IRA's strongest opponent, I do know that they tell the truth. Even when they committed the worst atrocities, they always admitted them."

And what about the weapons? "Every party in Ireland was founded on the gun. The guns disappear. The only question is, have you stopped using the guns?" The day agreement is reached, he will regard his task as done. "I have given my life to what I believe in, and I don't care what anybody says, it is peace. I know. I know. I've grown up with it. It's peace."

Executive blot on our landscape

Why do we allow suburbia to spread into England's villages?

Watching the ugly torries arrive and the tawdry mock-heraldic banners of the brutal builders rise alongside their sinister little Portakabin, I felt like one of the rabbits in *Waterloo Down* staring at the engines of destruction.

The notices of impending doom were quickly erected, harbingers of an environmental Armageddon. "Coming soon," they proclaimed, like advertisements for next week's movie at some small-town cinema, "an exclusive development of four-bedroom luxury executive homes." I had read the evil runes correctly: Partridge Chase was upon us.

Amid the bizarre indicators used by pundits to calculate trends in the British economy, one of the most perverse is the practice of seeing a rising number of "housing starts" as positive. In fact, the building industry is the bane of our national life, responsible for more and more lower-middle-class blots on the English countryside.

Admittedly, the new houses of the past decade have been better built and more congruous than much of the functional and ugly constructions of the 1960s and 1970s. But at their best, they remain pastiche, and ignore the real question, which is: were they necessary at all, except to make money for their builders?

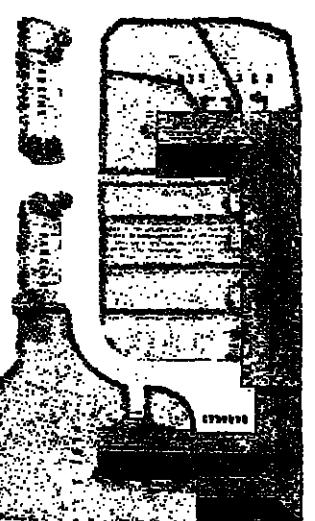
In a country with a stable population and a demographic dip in the offing, wholesale construction of new housing in the way it is now going on is redundant. Yes, there is a need for redeveloping — ripping down and starting again — on the tower-block vertical slums that disfigure our big cities. Some of this is happening. A lot of cheap, postwar council housing could also be replaced. And most importantly of all: our rich treasury of existing domestic architecture, from 17th-century country cottages via the immensely user-friendly, middle-class Victorian terraces to the 1930s suburbs, is in need of repair and restoration.

But most of this is left to the DIY business. For the big builders, the economic — i.e. money-making solution — is to build from scratch on the diminishing greenfield sites, preferably around picturesque villages which are thus in danger of mutating from balanced communities into small towns.

The traditional villain in this scenario was the "weekender", the relatively well-off city-dweller who could afford a second home, who was depicted as a contrast to a homogenous group of "locals". I admit an interest — I am a second-homeowner — but in reality, the traditional view is a myth. The real outsiders are the inhabitants of the "executive homes", mostly recent arrivals from suburbia who still commute up to 40 miles a

day to their workplaces, shop up to ten miles away at the nearest out-of-town supermarket complex and whose prime contribution to rural life is the exhaust fumes from their BMWs that clog narrow country lanes. By contrast, second homeowners have usually made a long-term commitment to their retreat, seeing it as a possible retirement home rather than a temporary step on the housing-market ladder. They shop in the village shop, use the village pubs and care about the quality of local life; after all, there is no point in escaping from like to like.

The counter-argument uses words such as "dynamic" and "progress" and complains about "fuddy-duddies" and "living in the past". But it is those who use it who are living in the past. The age of urbanisation in Britain is over, as the builders' enthusiasm for luring people from the towns into the villages demonstrates. What they are doing, of course, is eroding their main selling point, but by then they have made the sale.



"Executive" housing, a village-lover's horror

What most villages really need is some relatively inexpensive housing to give young people growing up in the community the chance to remain there. What they get instead are class-ghettos of suburbanites whose own children will leave the moment they are old enough, if they have not already moved "one rung up the ladder" to blight some other beauty spot with a cancerous "development" at its edge.

There is no obvious cure. I fear. Builders will be builders, and the lure of lucre usually wins out over the pedantries of planning permission. In the popular mind, the idea that "more" means "better" and that depopulation is a form of progress are among the most evil legacies of the 20th century. Only when we have erected street lights and laid suburban cressets, closes and gardens all over what remains of England will we realise that the great British dream has become a waking nightmare.

PETER MILLAR



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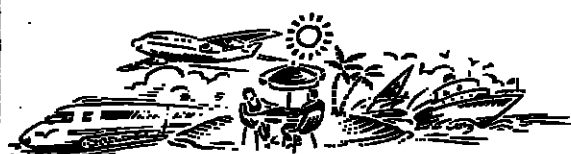
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THE TIMES

Monetary union holds scant benefit

Mr Clarke skirted the economic issues, says Anatole Kaletsky

It might have scored a respectable beta-minus for political shrewdness, but in an A-level paper on economics, the Chancellor's speech on European monetary union yesterday would have been lucky to win a bare pass mark. The problem for Kenneth Clarke was that stitching together the tattered fabric of party unity among his Cabinet colleagues has nothing whatsoever to do with economics, and a proper exposition of the rather subtle economic arguments on monetary union, which he kept skirting, would strike the public as even more mind-numbing than the Tories' internal battle over Europe. But here goes.

At least four questions are worth discussing. First, does monetary union imply political union? No. As Mr Clarke said yesterday, there have been plenty of states throughout history which have participated in monetary unions and remained separate nations. However, monetary union does imply the loss of one of the main prerogatives of a sovereign state — the power to print money — and this means far more than the loss of control over two instruments of economic policy, namely the level of interest rates and the exchange rate. A state which cannot print money thereby also loses the power to borrow freely in the financial markets, since money-creation is a Government's ultimate guarantee that it can always repay its debts, albeit in debased money if necessary. And curtailing the state's power to borrow also limits its ability to spend, tax and ultimately to carry out such other basic functions as waging war. All these curtailments of state power might be desirable, but it is dishonest to pretend they would not occur.

This leads to the second question: would the transfer of key elements of state sovereignty to Europe be desirable? On this essentially political question, one economic observation is worth making. European institutions have recently been unimpressive in overseeing monetary and exchange-rate policies, and have made an even bigger hash of running public spending programmes. Britain, on the other hand, has done quite well, ever since it left the ERM. Thus the idea that a substantial economic power like Britain cannot "go it alone" in monetary policy and must transfer economic sovereignty to Europe is simply nonsense.

The third question is whether monetary union would be economically feasible or whether it would "break up" the European Community", as John Major recently warned. On this point, Mr Major and other Eurosceptics are plainly wrong. A monetary union including Germany, France, Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland would be economically quite possible by the main target date in the Maastricht treaty, which is December 1999, not 1997. These countries are all likely by then to satisfy the treaty's convergence criteria. They might, of course, choose to back out of their treaty obligations. But if they did go ahead, they would be unlikely to suffer such serious economic hardship as to "tear Europe apart".

For some other European countries, joining a monetary union in 1999 might indeed be dangerous. Italy and Sweden, both of which have public debts well above 100 per cent of gross domestic product, would lose their ability to guarantee the repayment of their own debts, if necessary by debasing the lira and the krona. But this is precisely why the convergence criteria were designed to keep such countries out. Then there are the stragglers: Spain, Portugal and Greece. For them, early membership could be disastrous because it would lock in very high levels of unemployment and backward industrial structures.

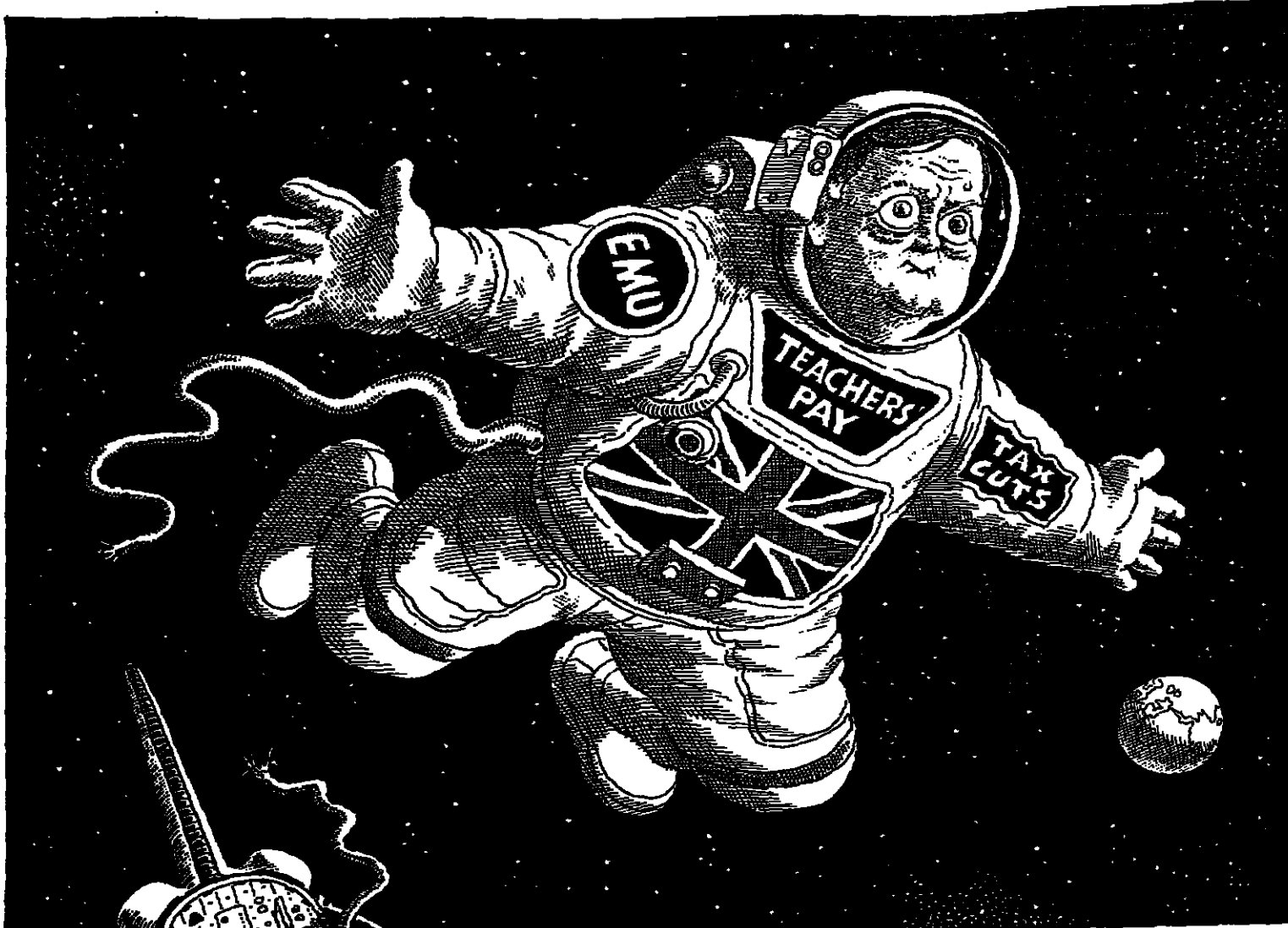
That it is possible doesn't mean it makes sense

Happy, Britain fits into neither of these problematic groups. However, from the mere fact that monetary union would be possible for a country like Britain, it is a huge leap of logic to claim that we (or for that matter France or Germany) should join.

This leads to the fourth and most important question: apart from the political doubts about European integration already mentioned, would the economic benefits outweigh the economic costs? Unfortunately, this crucial issue cannot be settled by ideology or flagwaving, but has to be addressed through boring economic theory. This theory, called Optimal Currency Areas, suggests that a single currency is only likely to be beneficial in a group of countries with reasonably uniform industrial structures and great mobility of labour. If the area is not uniform, different parts of it will respond differently to unpredictable shocks, such as oil crises or monetary miscalculations. Without an exchange rate to act as a shock-absorber, these upheavals will produce long periods of economic dislocation. And if labour is not mobile, the problems will be even worse, since large-scale migration (as in America) is one of the main ways for regions to cope with localised shocks.

But the theory has an even more important lesson. The most important requirement in creating a monetary union is that all the economies should be in balance to start with. This means not only that their trade should be balanced, but that there should be roughly equal levels of unemployment. A country with very high unemployment, like, for example, France at present, almost certainly has an overvalued currency. To lock such a currency into a monetary union is not impossible, but it guarantees huge economic costs for years if not decades ahead.

In sum, therefore, it would be quite possible for Europe to create a monetary union and for Britain to join. But just because something is possible, does not mean it makes sense.



BRITON IN POLICY VACUUM

Judges found wanting

The judiciary badly needs the guidance of advisers from the real world

The judges! The judges! I'm back with the judges! I knew something was missing in my life, and when I looked at my last year's diary all was clear. I hadn't had a go at them since last October! Ooh, the fortitude! Ah, the restraint! Eee, the waste of time!

Before I take up the matter in hand, I must touch upon a little-noted but very significant aspect of our judiciary and the way the members go about their labours. It is the forbearance that they show in the way they are treated by ruffians like me. True, the Old Guard has gone, so battered by getting things wrong and having to put them right 15 years later, that I could have pelted the bench with ordure and got away with it, and it was only my notorious lack of trickery that prevented me from actually carrying out the threat. But by then, though, the new or newish bench had got the hang of the hitherto lost trick of igniting the fire in the belly, and only the lower order of circuit judges was still up to the old tricks, though I, suspicious to the end, tried my old test of threatening to spit in the judge's eye to see how he takes it. He took it well.

That is a very good thing, not only for the spitters, but also for the judges, these days, are more sensible than their predecessors, and one of these days we shall wake up without the ghastly whine they emit when they are accused of not understanding ordinary people and their problems. (If I ever again hear from a judge that he really is an ordinary person just like us, and to prove it says that he always takes the washing to the laundry, remembers to stop the papers when he and his wife go on holiday, and brings the cat in at night, I shall spit in his eye.)

But we still have a long way to go, as witness Judge Wilson, who, on circuit, learned that — well, hear me, offered accommodation in the local B&B inn, he burst with rage. The advertising of judgeships brought him forty fits, saying that it was "a cynical exercise". As for the letter that all judges received, laying out what judicial kind of misbehaviour would lead to disciplinary proceedings, hear Judge Wilson: "I was very offended to receive it, and so was everyone else I have spoken to." Oh, my dear good justice: if you get offended to bursting by reading a letter that you claim was unnecessary, what would you think if a party of scoundrels knocked you down, debagged you, and painted your bottom red, white and blue?

With which, I introduce you to Judge Richard Haworth. (From the only photograph I have seen, he has curiously small eyes, and my mum always said I should avoid men with little eyes. Mind you, my mum was very superstitious.)

The story in brief is that a Mr Bill Wicks had been accused of the crime of being prosecuted, and Mr and Mrs Wicks were called to give evidence. Before they were to appear, however, they had been threatened, and the threats took the form of a warning not to give evidence. Mr and Mrs Wicks were afraid: after all, Mr Wicks had been attacked. In fear, the couple refused to give evidence. And the law, in the hands of Judge Haworth, came down on them with elephantine force. Well, you may say, fear or no fear, the law must be obeyed. Yes, but that leaves out Judge Haworth. From beginning to end of the Wicks' ordeal, he appears to have taken virtually no notice of anything said for the besieged couple. Have a taste. This is Mrs Wicks speaking:

Our barrister, Barbara Strachan, started to speak. But Judge Haworth was not interested in anything she was saying. Miss Strachan mentioned the letter I had written. The judge waved it in his hand and was clearly not impressed. Our barrister tried to explain it was Bill who was the victim in all this, but he was not having any of it, she was talking to thin air. From that moment we knew we were going to prison. It was then the judge declared: "Only custodial sentence could be justified."

Off to prison they went, quite literally without anything that could be called a defence, and anything said on their side ignored or brushed aside, thanks to Judge Haworth. Now, I have frequently criticised the present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, but the appalling behaviour of Judge Haworth galvanised the Lord Chief into a statement that even I could not fault. Here it is:

Lord Chief Justice Taylor ruled "that the contempt was not satisfactorily or properly proved". He said that in future people like the Wicks should be given a full opportunity to explain themselves. He criticised the fact that neither the couple nor the police officer involved in the case were asked to speak during the hearing... and expressed astonishment that the Crown Prosecution Service was not even represented. "This must not happen again," he said.

Indeed it must not happen again. But how can we guard ourselves against Judge Haworth and his like? The Wicks have an answer. Mrs Wicks said of him: "To me he was so pompous, with no idea of what goes on in the real world."

And plainly he hasn't. The last time such a scandal arose, I offered a remedy, a serious one. Forget the majesty of justice outside the great cities and outside the great crimes and outside the great wigs; think instead of the hundreds of minor transgressions that are dealt with every week, with no one but perhaps a barrister plus two lay justices, in the rural world. I do not think such justice is tainted, corrupt or beyond the intelligence of ordinary people. Well, invert the pattern. All the high courts could and should have a lay adviser — not just an expert on technical matters. He or she would not argue the fine points of the law, but would point out the fatuities, pomposities and absurdities that could be avoided by the Wicks' few sagacious words, in which they summed up their ordeal: "... with no idea of what goes on in the real world."

And has Judge David MacLaren Webster any idea what goes on in the real world? He will say (possibly splutter) that of course he knows what goes on in the real world: why, he might say he bought a lottery ticket last week, and perhaps went to the cinema the week before that, and it is not impossible that he reads thrillers when he is not busy. Never was there a judge so *au courant* as Judge MacLaren Webster.

Bernard Levin

Philip Howard



Thank you, Mr Norris — would you kindly change trains?

We dreadful human beings on the Circle Line were behaving with our Blitz stoicism yesterday. Other "dreadful human beings" were sitting not alongside, but below us, their papers ticking our midriffs while we tried not to tread on their feet. Seats are snatched at once, irrespective of the age, sex, children or other disabilities of the competition. But by the time the train arrives at Notting Hill Gate, all the seats have long gone, and the prudent man tries to insinuate himself apologetically towards some vertical surface to prop his back against.

We show patience in conditions that would shock the demonstrators against cat-trucks. When a cowboy driver jerks us off our feet around a corner, we catch each other and make eye contact and even smile — for once wryly is the exact rather than the lazy adverb. Some of the intolerant make "tssking" noises to match the electronic "tssks" coming from the headphones of commuting cassette players, and parties of French schoolchildren who choose to travel during the rush hour attract looks that students of English body language could translate as resentful. The only time we are ever roused to vocal complaint is after being stuck in a tunnel with unintelligible explanations, or when a Circle Line is changed to a Metropolitan train without any distinguishable warning, and we find ourselves outside the inner zone without a ticket.

We were relieved not to have the Transport Minister, former chairman of a dealership in expensive motor cars, in our carriage, because there was no room for him. If he had arrived, we would have squeezed the congested mass of dreadful humanity even tighter, in a grudging way, to let him in, out of feeling for a fellow victim. One touch of the Circle Line makes even junior ministers kin. But we took it that Steve Norris was being ironic about our dreadfulness, and referring to our conditions of travel rather than our behaviour, clothes, smells, vulgarity, eating habits and continuity in trains. Yesterday he said that he was referring to himself as the man on the Circle Line and a dreadful human being.

Loss of any personal space is the main horror of commuting, and we endure this by building our invisible screens against the crowd with crosswords or books or earphones or by staring at the advertisements. I prefer it to being stuck in a rush-hour traffic jam. Commuters by public transport are cattle. Commuters by car are road-hogs.

Mr Norris sounded as patronising as the man in the car to the man on public transport — the Attila-the-Hun arrogance of the horseman to the poor resentful infantry. Human beings are lovely, or at least they are all that we have, and our relatives and friends. En rush-hour mass, they may be described as dreadful — but not by a politician seeking re-election.

Mr Norris's phrase "dreadful human beings" was superior car salesman's language, and probably irony, a device that provokes outrage in soundbites. John Major's description of Tony Blair as a "dimwit" was obnoxious slang. The word is an American colloquialism that came over to the playgrounds of London with the GIs. It sounds snooty and aggressive, and as old as Just William's teacher.

Coarser insults are in vogue today. The same insinuation can be made within the rules of parliamentary language by wit rather than direct abuse. What he lacks in intelligence, he makes up for in stupidity. Microbiologists are trying to build the ultimate idiot, and they are using the honourable gentleman's gene bank. As when Francis Bacon said that a tall French ambassador was like a five-storey house: "the upper rooms are the most poorly furnished". Or when Sheridan's son Tom announced that when he became an MP he would proclaim his independence of party by writing "To Ler" on his forehead. Sheridan said, "And, under that, Tom, write 'unfurnished'." Or when Byron wrote that the Cardinal at Ravenna was at his wit's end: "— it is true that he had not far to go." Wit runs deeper than abuse. And political gaffes at least keep us awake when they cause outrage.

Splash 'n' grab

POLICE arrested two Cambridge University students who ran wild at the weekend after an evening with a girls' drinking society. One of the two medical students from St John's College dived into the flooded River Cam to evade college porters and for three hours was believed to have drowned.

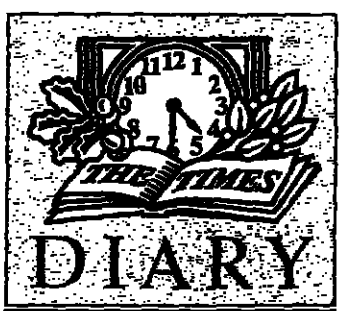
The episode began after Luke Gompels and Adam Green left the inebriated company of the Nevinnham Nuns on borrowed bicycles. They raced around St John's before being spotted by college porters. Green made a quick escape but Gompels was pursued through the library and the Master's garden, where he reached a wall overlooking the river.

Despite repeated appeals, he threw himself into the swirling Cam below. The porters called the emergency services. A three-hour tri-service search followed, involving heat-seeking equipment, searchlights and an inflatable boat. Gompels re-emerged at the college gate three hours later. Along with Green, he was arrested, cautioned by the police and released. Both students have been banned from the college bar for the term and fined £250.

"The events have generated a great sense of ill-feeling. The porter was concerned that he had met his death," says Ray Jobling, Senior Tutor at St John's. Gompels refused to comment on the incident other than to confirm that he was in serious trouble.

Guests are to be permitted to bare all at The Ritz. At supper or in the bar, however, diners must be partially clad at least. The Ritz in question claims to be Britain's

HE'S WHAT WE CALL A SINGLE DECKER... NOTHING UPSTAIRS



most opulent naturist health and fitness club. It opens later this month in leafy Surbiton. But after learning of it, the rather better-known Ritz hotel in Piccadilly has decided to investigate the new establishment. "We're looking into this, but I can't say any more," said a spokeswoman.

God save us

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM has been blaring interminably from the offices of BBC Radio 2 for the last few weeks. The anthem celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, and Radio 2 is putting on a birthday programme.

"The people in my office are sick of the sound of it because I have had to listen to 40 or 50 different versions," says Bridget Apps, the programme's producer. "We go

from a version by the Grenadier Guards to a really awful one by Michael Fagin, the man who broke into the Queen's bedroom."

A German military band gave the longest known rendering on the platform of Rathenau railway station, she adds. King Edward VII was struggling to fit into an undersized German field-marshal's uniform. The band played the anthem 17 times before he was ready.

London College of Law students were being examined on police powers yesterday afternoon when there was a bomb scare. Police swamped the building and turfed them outside — leaving the students a tip or two in passing.

Essex epic

FED UP with jokes about stilettos and secondhand cars, Essex Man is fighting back. A lifelong inhabitant of the ridiculed region is re-mortgaging his house to champion the county.

At the age of 62, Roy Dyer, of the Brentwood Information Centre, has hired a film crew to make a 40-minute documentary, *Essex: The County of Contrasts*, setting the £50,000 cost against his home. Footage of idyllic, sleepy villages will be shown against views of the M25 and shopping centres.



The Menuhins: harmonising their autobiographies

"These jokes about Essex are not funny but rather silly," he says. "I'm an Essex man and very proud of it. I don't wear jewellery and shell-suits, but why shouldn't people, anyway?"

In tune

TALK IN London's Chester Square of the industrious behaviour of Lord Menuhin and his wife Diana. They are updating their autobiog-

raphies after selling a double book deal to the publisher Sinclair-Stevenson for about £60,000. The books will be launched to coincide with the ecologically minded peer's 80th birthday in April 1996. And both volumes will doubtless find their way across the square, to the Menuhins' famous neighbours, Sir Denis and Lady Thatcher.

P.H.S

21



INFOTECH 28-30

The smart card that is leaping ahead of western banking



ARTS 31-33

Morrissey on why he is 'the strangest living oddity'



SPORT 35-40

King of the Kronk brings home lesson in boxing clever

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10 1995

CBI demands Tories end Euro wrangle

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN'S business leaders have demanded an end to internal government wrangling over Europe, warning that arguments about a single currency must not undermine Britain's commitment to the single market.

Calling on ministers to set a positive agenda for European reform, Howard Davies, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, said it was time to "recognise the reality of our current membership of the Union".

In a keynote speech, he allied the business lobby firmly with ministers who support progress to European integration. Britain could safely defer a decision on joining a single currency until economic circumstances made it an option, he said. But any withdrawal

from the Union would entail enormous risks. CBI consultations showed that the "overwhelming majority" of business people were firmly in favour of Britain's continued membership of the Union.

Mr Davies's speech, in Norwich, came less than 24 hours after a group of leading businessmen wrote to *The Times* to highlight the difficulties that introduction of a single currency might pose.

Mr Davies said he was "not unhappy" with the Government's refusal to commit Britain to join a single currency. Rather, it was "eminently sensible" to wait to see how many countries would be in the core, and how Britain's performance on inflation and productivity evolves.

But in a clear warning



Elizabeth Forsyth arriving yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, which sent her for trial at the Central Criminal Court

Leap in imports widens UK's world trade gap

By Colin Narbrough

SURGING imports widened the UK's trade gap with the rest of the world in November, according to the latest Government figures, and City economists believe that it has since widened further.

The trade deficit for November was £640 million, after a revised £553 million shortfall in October, bringing the deficit for the first 11 months of last year to £8.2 billion, down from £12 billion at the same stage in 1993.

The Budget forecast for the whole of 1994 is an £11 billion deficit. Previously published figures for trade with the European Union (EU) revealed a sharp widening of the deficit in December, to £1.05 billion, which points to a full-year global deficit of below £10 billion, against £13.3 billion the year before.

Export growth remained impressive. A 3 per cent rise from October took exports to £12.1 billion in November. Richard Needham, the Trade Minister, said that

Nadir aide is sent for trial

ELIZABETH FORSYTH, former personal aide to Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman, has been sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court - four months after her voluntary return to Britain for questioning by the Serious Fraud Office (Jon Ashworth writes).

BT redundancies and price cuts hit earnings

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday reported lower third-quarter earnings as redundancy charges and price cuts overcame strong growth in the company's mobile-phone businesses.

The company gave no more details of the scale of next year's job losses. It said last month that fewer than 15,000 jobs would disappear in 1995-96, marking its final year of extensive job cuts. BT has shed 110,000 jobs since 1990.

Pre-tax profit in the three months to December 31 fell 5.4 per cent, to £660 million from £698 million in the same period in 1993. As a result, earnings per share declined to 7.1p from 7.3p. Pre-tax profits for the nine-month period were £2.15 billion, down 2 per cent.

The results were in line with analysts' forecasts. The shares, which fell more than 4p after the release of the results, recovered later in the day and closed at 397.5p.

BT shed 11,200 workers in the nine-month period, incurring unusually high redundancy charges of £368 million compared with £292 million the year before. Total redundancies in the current financial year will rise to as much as 16,000, about 1,000 more than it had anticipated.

Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profits rose by 0.8 per cent in the quarter and 2.5 per cent in the nine months, while earnings per share were up 3.1 per cent in both periods.

BT's overall call volume increased but price reductions of about 15 per cent last year led to lower turnover. The turnover from domestic calls, for example, declined by £184

C&G Bill has its last chance today

By Robert Miller

THE Government has refused to take the Private Member's Bill to give thousands of Cheltenham & Gloucester widows a share in a £10 million payout on its own parliamentary schedule. The Bill, which was "shouted down" by Labour MPs last week, is due to be presented in the Commons again today.

Anthony Nelson, Economic Secretary

to the Treasury, told *The Times* yesterday: "I've gone as far as I can in giving government support to the Private Member's Bill. I don't want to play party politics with it and if it is voted down today the chances of getting it on to the parliamentary schedule halfway through the term are very slim indeed."

The Building Societies (Joint Account Holders) Bill is being presented by Douglas French, Conservative MP for

Gloucester. If it is passed today it would also have implications for many thousands of investors involved in the much larger merger between the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, has promised that the Bill has the backing of his party. Mr French said last night that he would try to take it through all its Commons stages and straight into the Lords in one go.

Former nurse gets the star treatment

By Jon Ashworth



Eileen Mulligan, from nurse to successful entrepreneur

A FORMER Harley Street nurse and a top City stockbroker are among the elite young British business stars, according to a survey that may turn out to be the ball and chain they can do without.

Eileen Mulligan, who markets a non-surgical facelift product to celebrities such as the Princess of Wales, joins Hector Santos, head of derivatives at UBS, the stockbroker, on a list of 40 "people to watch" under the age of 40.

Miss Mulligan, 32, joins Luke Johnson of Pizza Express and Jan Fletcher, Veuve Clicquot 1993 Businesswoman of the Year, in a controversial list compiled by *BusinessAge* magazine. In five years, Miss Mulligan rose from working as a nurse

in Harley Street to build an international cosmetics company.

Other "young blades" on the list include Trevor Finn of Pendragon, the car company, John Mayo, finance director at Zeneca, and Andrew Regan, chief executive of the Hobson food group.

This is the third *BusinessAge* survey of its kind - the previous ones were in 1986 and 1989. It sets out to identify the 40 managers and entrepreneurs destined to lead Britain's business community into the 21st century.

But a glance at the inaugural 1986 roll-call makes chilling reading. Then, people singled out for "exceptional management talent" included John Ashcroft, former head of

Coloroll, and Gerald Ratner of jewellery infamy. Howard Hodgson, the former funeral king, was there along with Olivier Roux, finance director of Guinness at the time of the Distillers takeover bid. Alan Sugar, still labouring on at Amstrad and Tottenham Hotspur, also saw his name in lights. Sophie Mirman, once riding high at Sock Shop, joined the list in 1989.

To be fair, there have been successes. Richard Branson, Michael Green and Greg Hutchings all featured in the 1986 list. Howard Davies, of the Confederation of British Industry, made it in 1989.

As for Miss Mulligan, it seems the ultimate accolade is yet to come. She is rumoured to be set for a debut in *Hello!*

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3088.0	(+26.5)
Yield	4.30%	
FT-SE All share	1525.42	(+11.77)
Nikkei	18089.55	(-190.70)
New York	3940.75	(+5.58)*
S&P Composite	480.91	(-0.28)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	97 1/8%	(98 1/8%)
Yield	7.85%	(7.85%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Libor 6m	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5570*	(1.5537)
London	1.5585	(1.5525)
DM	2.3788	(2.3783)
FF	8.2300	(8.2275)
Sfr	2.0115	(2.0135)
Yen	153.82	(153.82)
£ Index	75.7	(75.6)
DOLLAR		
London	1.5277*	(1.5305)
DM	5.2833*	(5.2845)
Sfr	1.2927*	(1.2955)
Yen	98.85*	(98.93)
£ Index	62.7	(62.7)
Tokyo close Yen 96.82		
BOND YIELD		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	£16.55	(£16.50)
London close	£376.35	(£374.85)
* denotes midday trading price		

Shell sale

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, has sold its interest in the \$1 billion Collahuasi copper project in Chile to its joint venture partners Minoro and Falconbridge after failing to secure a buyer in an auction. Collahuasi is one of the largest copper reserves in the world. Page 23

Govett action

Govett, the fund manager, faces a \$20 million legal action alleging breach of duty from a listed US fund it has managed since 1987. The action prompted a counter accusation from Govett. Page 22

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23

□ BT and Ofel harmony under threat □ Generators need two years to sing in tune □ Rhythm but no blues for the trade balance

It's good to talk

AMIDST the battle-scarred landscape of the utility industries, where companies and regulators regularly hurl themselves across no-man's land at each other with bayonets and opinions fixed, one company has been able to live in remarkable peace with its natural enemy. BT and Ofel have appeared to the outside world to have an astonishingly chummy relationship with each other, with the company readily complying with the regulator's draconian price formula.

Unfortunately the exchanges between the two sides in the last few days suggest that this fragile armistice is under threat. BT does not like Ofel's demand for accounting separation at all and has made its reluctance only too plain.

In many respects, BT is in danger of becoming a victim of its own success. In the past two years, it has turned Ofel's price formula, which compels it to cut prices by 5 per cent in real terms each year, into a powerful marketing weapon by cutting selected prices which will make maximum impact among both business and personal cus-

tomers. Out has gone the peak morning rate, and in have come cheaper daytime international calls and directory enquiries. This may have pleased BT's customers but it has prompted a great deal of wailing from the company's competitors who have discovered it is no longer easy to grab market share off the industry leader. Ofel's market share figures yesterday, which showed a slip of only 2 percentage points in BT's market share, suggest that it is more than holding its own in the telecoms industry despite being now challenged by more than 150 competitors.

This is hardly likely to please Ofel, which has an interest in driving BT's market share as low as possible to make the British telecoms market look diverse and competitive. Compare BT's continuing dominance with AT&T, which only controls around 60 per cent of the long

distance market in the US. By insisting that BT publishes its costs and the profitability of its various systems and services, Ofel is asking for some very valuable information. When the current blanket price formula expires in 1997, it would not be surprising if Ofel insisted on imposing something less crude in which it could pick and choose where BT cut prices. BT's response to Ofel this week was chilling. "It has not been BT that has, to date, taken legal action against Ofel", it concluded. That veiled threat suggests relations could become very strained indeed.

Discordant dividends

IN all the fuss and nonsense about Ed Wallis's share options, and the quite reasonable concern that the industry regulator will



blight the future of National Power and PowerGen, one intriguing inconsistency over the forthcoming £4 billion generators sale has been missed. Just why have the two companies, which might be expected to sing from the same hymn sheet, recorded such widely different tunes on forthcoming dividends?

dend announcements, and no one at the Treasury noticed the difference until it was too late to change the prospectus.

The result is that PowerGen, which has presaged an 18 per cent final dividend rise this year, looks distinctly meaner than National Power, with 24 per cent forecast. The reason is that while both companies have agreed to buy in up to 8 per cent of their share capital as part of the float, National Power has chosen to take this into account in setting the level of dividend the company can afford, while PowerGen reckons that the effects of the buy-in only kick in next year and therefore has not.

This is all terribly confusing to poor Aunt Agatha, who is being forced to buy the shares bundled together in any case. What she needs to know is that PowerGen will increase its dividend at a much higher rate than its rival from next year and the two will

eventually come into equilibrium. But the hordes of overpaid lawyers who control the shots will not allow anyone to say this officially. It has been a pleasure to set the record straight.

Music to the Treasury's ears

THE name of British Invisibles still bewilders many, but it often produces reminders of the huge contribution the services sector makes to Britain's trade balance. Its latest report, on the music business, shows that Mick Jagger, David Bowie and the like are economic power-houses that put many of this country's traditional industries in the shade. The music industry generated gross overseas earnings of £1.6 billion in 1993 which puts it on a par with such success stories as the reformed steel industry and well ahead of arms

(excluding aircraft, tractors, woollens and tobacco).

Since the Mersey Beat of the 60s, British music has been in demand worldwide and become a major net exporter, moving in the opposite direction to many of our manufacturing sectors now in minor key. Of the net earnings of £571 million in 1993, the invisible side of the music trade, such as royalties and performance fees, accounted for more than £490 million.

In the rhythm section, recording was the biggest single earner in 1993, with £323.8 million, followed by music publishing with £146 million. Musical instruments, part of the visible side of the business, showed a £26.6 million deficit.

Music exports were twice the size of imports and there are only handful of industries in Britain which can match that performance. The industry cannot afford to relax. The looming trade war between America and China has turned a spotlight on the importance of bringing the curtain down on intellectual property piracy. Otherwise, the glittering show could soon be over.

Shell sells Chilean copper project stake to partners

By CARL MORTSHED

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, has sold its interest in the \$1 billion Collahuasi copper project in Chile to its joint venture partners, Minorco and Falconbridge, after failing to secure a buyer in an auction.

Minorco, the Luxembourg-based mining group and Falconbridge, the Canadian company, are together paying \$195 million for Shell's one third interest in Collahuasi,

one of the largest copper reserves in the world.

The sale follows Shell's disposal of Billiton, the oil company's metals division, which is being acquired by Gencor, the South African group, in a \$1 billion deal signed last November. Gencor failed to buy Shell's stake in Collahuasi, which is owned in equal parts by the joint venture partners. Both Minorco and Falconbridge hold pre-

emption rights over the Shell interest and will each own 50 per cent when the deal is completed in March.

In an attempt to secure a higher price Shell announced an auction of its interests last June but the process failed to come up with a buyer.

A spokeswoman for Minorco said that the company was not paying more for the Shell stake than it paid to join the Collahuasi venture two

years ago, despite a massive increase in the world price of copper. "We have not exercised our pre-emption rights. We sat around a table and did a deal," she said.

Copper prices have almost doubled since the end of last year in a speculative rally but recent selling by hedge funds has taken some 9 per cent from the gains.

Minorco set a benchmark price for Collahuasi last year when it offered \$110 million to Mantos Blancos, its quoted Chilean subsidiary, to buy in the latter's one sixth share. The price was set independently by a local branch of NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, but the deal was never sealed because minority shareholders in Mantos Blancos wished to see the outcome of the Shell auction.

Market sources suggest that prospective buyers may have been deterred from bidding for Shell's interest for fear that Minorco or Falconbridge would match bids up to and beyond \$220 million by using their right of pre-emption.

The Collahuasi copper reserves lie at an altitude of 4,500 metres in the Andes in northern Chile.

Minorco said yesterday that the mine would produce between 300,000 and 350,000 tonnes in full production, with an estimated life of 20-30 years. It is expected to come into production in 1998 and Minorco and Falconbridge will together be investing more than \$1 billion in it.

Bass blames Chancellor for sales fall

BASS, Britain's biggest brewer, blamed a fall in beer volumes on the rise in excise duty announced in the emergency Budget (George Sivel writes).

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, told the annual meeting that takings in January were slightly below those in the same month last year, "reflecting perhaps customer reaction to the Chancellor's change of mind on beer duty at a time when discretionary income is traditionally stretched".

The volume of beer sales fell 1.3 per cent for the first 16 weeks of this financial year, which includes Christmas. Sir Ian said take-home sales also suffered from competitors' "cut-throat" pricing. However, the resultant shortfall in gross profits was substantially recovered by overhead savings. Exports showed "very strong growth". Sir Ian was confident of further progress despite demanding times for brewing and soft drinks.

Operating profits before the charge rose 16 per cent to 112 per cent, partly due to a strong performance from the group's vacuum division. Group turnover rose 3 per cent to £825 million.

Tempus, page 24

Lex management jobs go to cut costs

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

LEX SERVICE is cutting up to 100 jobs in a management shake-up of its car retailing business, intended to reduce costs and boost the bottom line.

The motor dealership group said yesterday that margins would remain under pressure in a tough trading climate, and Lex is taking an exceptional charge of £4.5 million to improve returns in the traditionally low-margin motor dealership business.

The job losses include 50 staff at the Lex Retail Group's Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, HQ, while 30 general managers are to go from the dealerships. Further job losses are expected from the corporate office in London.

Sir Trevor Chinn, chair-

man, said the company was seeking ways to improve service and efficiency. "We are forecasting an environment where trading margins and volumes are going to remain under pressure for the foreseeable future," he explained.

Lex hopes to save £4 million initially from the restructuring, with more gains in the future. The company indicated that the £4.5 million charge in the 1994 accounts would be offset by exceptional profits from the sale of businesses and properties.

Lex is also strengthening management of Lex Autosales, its used car business, and plans 25 more centres next year.

Tempus, page 24

BTP cash call to fund expansion

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

BTP, the specialist chemicals group, is launching a £51.9 million rights issue to fund its expansion plans. The cash call — the third in three years — is on the basis of one new share for every six held at a price of 225p a share. The proceeds will be used to pay for a string of small, recent acquisitions and provide funds for further bolt-on acquisitions.

BTP has bought six businesses in the past 18 months for £27.2 million. The latest deal, announced yesterday, is the £3.5 million acquisition of a plant, in north Wales, which makes a key raw material for its Nipa range of cosmetics and toiletries.

Rob Martin, finance director, said the group is actively looking at a further six or

seven acquisition opportunities which, if implemented, would cost about £30 million. "Negotiations are at varying stages," he said. "Some deals are very close, and some are over a year away."

The proceeds from the rights issue will eliminate net borrowings of £49 million. BTP has raised £140 million in the past three years to build up its core areas of biocides, adhesives and process chemicals through bolt-on acquisitions. Most of the new deals are in the adhesives area.

The group intends to recommend a final dividend of 7.15p (6.55p) for the year to March 31, making a total payout of 10.9p (10p).

Tempus, page 24



Tony Isaac, BOC's finance director, left, with Pat Dyer, the chief executive

Earthquake to cost BOC £3m

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Japanese earthquake is expected to cost BOC, the industrial gases group, up to £3 million in lost profits due to the disruption of OSK, its subsidiary near Kobe.

The group said yesterday that the plant was still suffering from disruption and "severe transport difficulties" in the aftermath of the earthquake, which destroyed many of the roads in the area. This will hit profits in the first half of the year even though the

group's Japanese employees have repaired the minor damage to the plant and restored full production.

The group, headed by Pat Dyer, chief executive, yesterday paid tribute to the fortitude and dedication of its Japanese employees, many of whom have been made homeless and lost relatives.

BOC outlined the damage as it reported a return to profits for the three months

to December 31. Pre-tax profits were £89.4 million, compared with a loss of £8.9 million a year ago when the group was hit by an £85 million reorganisation charge.

Operating profits before the charge rose 16 per cent to 112 per cent, partly due to a strong performance from the group's vacuum division. Group turnover rose 3 per cent to £825 million.

Tempus, page 24

Spurs says fine prevented payout

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the quoted Premiership football club, has again passed its interim dividend and has largely blamed the absence of a payout on the £1.5 million fine imposed on it by the Football Association.

The decision not to pay a dividend comes in spite of a surge in Tottenham's pre-tax profits, to £2.06 million, in the six months to November 30, up from £644,000 last time, on turnover of £11.7 million (£12.3 million). Earnings per share rose to 8.6p (2.7p).

Alan Sugar, Tottenham's chairman, said that the cost of redeveloping Tottenham's stadium and last summer's spend-

ing on players also had an effect, but the blame for missing the dividend is placed on the £1.5 million fine.

The fine was imposed by the FA after allegations about illegal payments to players. An FA ban on participation in the FA Cup and a league points deduction were overturned on appeal, but the original £600,000 fine was increased to £1.5 million.

Mr Sugar said: "Our cash flow position was disrupted by the fine of unprecedented proportions levied... This money would, in ordinary circumstances, have been available for dividend payments to shareholders or player purchases."

On the pitch, the club's decision to invest in international stars, including Germany's

Jürgen Klinsmann, and the appointment of Gerry Francis as manager have brought rewards. Tottenham has moved from the relegation zone earlier this season to ranking sixth in the Carling Premiership, within striking distance of a place in one of the potentially lucrative European competitions.

Mr Sugar said that he was pleased with progress made since Mr Francis's arrival, but added: "It is with great regret that the partnership of Ossie Ardiles and Steve Perryman did not work out and it was a sad occasion to lose the services of both these gentlemen, whose hearts have always been with Tottenham."

Tempus, page 24

BT Third Quarter Results

Results for third quarter and nine months to 31 December, 1994				
	3 months ended 31 December (unaudited)		9 months ended 31 December (unaudited)	
	1994	1993	1994	1993
	£m	£m	£m	£m

Turnover	3,466	3,429	10,317	10,190
Redundancy charges	217	142	368	292
Operating profit	669	761	2,341	2,362
Profit (loss) on sale of group companies	33	(4)	33	(2)
Premium on repurchase of bonds	-	-	75	-
Profit before taxation	660	698	2,153	2,198
Profit after taxation	432	458	1,384	1,440
Earnings per share	7.1p	7.3p	22.1p	22.9p

Highlights excluding the impact of redundancy charges and non-recurring factors:

- Turnover up by 2.3% in the third quarter and up by 2.2% for the nine months
- Profit before tax up by 4.5% in the third quarter and up by 2.5% for the nine months
- Earnings per share up by 3.1% in the third quarter and in the nine months

Chairman's statement

The third quarter's results are encouraging for a period in which our customers have benefited from large price reductions and in which we have spent considerable amounts to develop our business. Growth in our core business has been particularly strong.

During the third quarter BT entered its second decade as a public limited state, well positioned to meet the challenges of a competitive marketplace at home and abroad, but facing an increasingly unpredictable regulatory climate in the UK."

Sir Iain Vallance
9 February, 1995

If you have any queries as a shareholder please call 0345 010505. For daily recorded information on the BT share price and matters of interest to shareholders generally, please call 0345 010707. You may telephone these numbers from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call. Different call rates apply for non-BT customers.

British Telecommunications plc, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares pass 3,100-level in best session of year

THE equity market shrugged off its recent lethargy and made a concerted assault on the 3,100 level. It failed to hold the ground, but only just. The FT-SE 100 index recovered an early fall and by mid-afternoon had breached 3,100. It closed below its best, with a rise of 26.5 points at 3,099.0. It was the best performance this year, with a healthy pick-up in turnover also recorded. By the close of business 717 million shares had changed hands.

There was much back-slapping at the house of Kleinwort Benson, where equity strategist Edmund Warner was being credited as the reason for the return of investor confidence. He told clients on Wednesday night to expect a strong rise soon and warned them not to be hesitant and left behind. Other brokers remain cautious about the outlook for equities and say today's producer prices in the US will be a tough hurdle for investors to jump.

Among leaders, Rediff and Colman stood out with 7p rise to 646p. Word is that the disposal of its Colman's food business should be concluded in a week, or two. Smith & Nephew also added 2 1/2p to 167 1/2p amid vague talk of a bid from Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare group. The story is not a new one, but the pick-up in corporate activity means speculators will not easily rule it out.

Food retailers closed lower on the day, unsettled by reports that Tesco is further developing its electronic loyalty card which offers customers bonus points. Tesco closed 5p lower at 244p. There were also losses for Argill, 9p to 269p, Asda, 1p to 67p, J Sainsbury, 8p to 419p, Kwik Save, 4p to 52p, Iceland, 3p to 154p, and William Morrison, 2p to 199p. Budgets moved against the trend, with further bid talk lifting the price 1 1/2p to 32 1/2p as almost 2 million shares were traded. Elsewhere in retailing, Boots rose 8p to 484p after a visit by brokers.

Shares of Govett, the fund manager, tumbled 38p to 311p after learning that the Govett American Endeavour Fund had filed a lawsuit with the US District Court, alleging a breach of its duties as manager.

BTP recovered an early fall to finish 1 1/2p firmer at 397 1/2p. Third-quarter figures revealed an expected downturn in pre-tax profits from £698 million

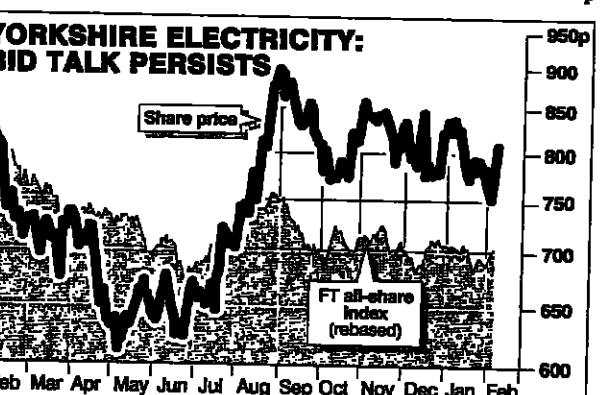
Sir Trevor Chinn, Lex chairman, is driving to cut costs

to £660 million. This was struck after taking into account an increase in redundancy costs from £142 million to £217 million, lifting the total for the first nine months to £568 million.

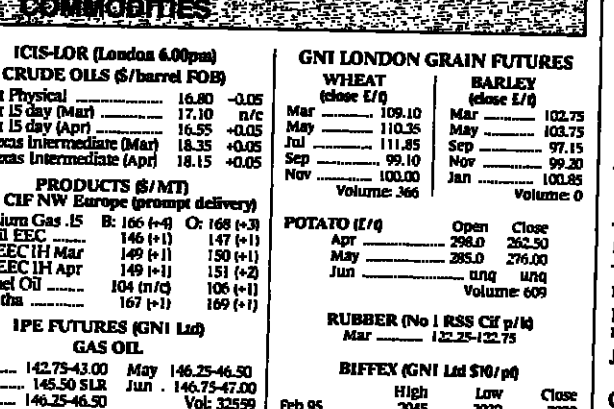
Turnover in inland calls fell almost 5 per cent as the impact of recent price cuts began to take effect, and was only partially offset by an increase

in volume growth of 7 per cent. But Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, was cheered by 43 per cent growth during the first nine months in mobile communication sales, bringing the total number of subscribers up to 1.56 million.

The drinks sector continued to feature prominently, still rattled by this week's announcement that the Office of Fair Trading is inquiring into reports that Foster's, the Australian brewer, is about to float off its Courage brewing division on the stock market with a price-tag of about £300 million. Scottish & Newcastle, unchanged at 498p, and Whitbread, 4p off at 527p, are both known to be interested in bidding for Courage, and brokers say a deal is imminent. Foster's bought Courage from Hanson in 1986, and set up



YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY: BID TALK PERSISTS



COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCOA			
Mar	1000-990	May	1049-1047
Jul	1000-990	Jul	1000-1000
Sep	1000-990	Sep	1000-1000
Dec	1000-990	Dec	1000-1000
Mar	1000-990	Mar	1000-990
May	1000-990	May	1000-990
Jul	1000-990	Jul	1000-990
Sep	1000-990	Sep	1000-990
Dec	1000-990	Dec	1000-990
Mar	1000-990	Mar	1000-990
May	1000-990	May	1000-990
Jul	1000-990	Jul	1000-990
Sep	1000-990	Sep	1000-990
Dec	1000-990	Dec	1000-990

LIFE OPTIONS

Cats						Pns					
Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Feb
430	25				8						
430	25				8						
W	400	33	43	47	5	17	21				
					20	24	28				
Series Feb May Aug Feb May Aug						Series Mar Jun Sep Mar Jun Sep					
400	6	21	38		28	39					
400	0	0	14	38		39					
300	21	25	28	32	0	6	17	21			
400	0	0	16	36		21	24				
448	20										
487	2				12	32					
380	9	23	30		15	17					
400	0	0	15	15		15					
409	6	22	32		3	12	16				
400	0	0	7	15	39						
400	0	0	15	15		15					
400	0	0	6	15	20	36					
400	16	24	28	30	0	31	8				
400	0	0	17	17		17					
240	5	12	16		8	12					
240	0	4	7	16	20	24					
400	0	0	13	13		13					
160	2	10	12		1	6					
160	2	10	12		1	6					
140	1	7	13	11	17	17					
140	1	15	19	22	0	2	4				
140	1	14	18		0	13					
330	0	0	0	0	24	34					
400	28	37	42	0	13	18					
400	0	0	13	13		13					
160	4	11	15	8	1	11					
160	4	11	15	8	1	11	21	23			
160	4	13	16	2	2	10	12				
160	4	13	16	2	2	10	12				
183	0										
200	1	9	13	9	3	13	15				
360	0	6	11	11	23	32					
FTSE INDEX (3599)											
Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun
1000	300	310	310	310	310	320					

Entrepreneur, a joint pub venture with Grand Metropolitan, up 6p at 383p. Plans to raise £52 million by way of a rights issue left BTP, the chemicals group, 12p lower at 260p. The terms are one for six at 22p and the proceeds will be used to finance various acquisitions required to produce key raw materials.

Lex Service fell 6p to 282p after the new management team announced plans for a major restructuring of its motor dealerships which is expected to cost almost £15 million. The measures are expected to save £4 million a year initially. The shake-up follows the appointment last November of John Walden as managing director. His aim is to change Lex from a franchise-based structure to a regional based operation. Sir Trevor Chinn, the chairman, said trading remained under pressure.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, continued to make headway, with a rise of 6 1/2p to 147 1/2p, making a two-day plus of 14 1/2p. Interim figures on Wednesday revealed pre-tax profits slumping from £1.7 million to just £25,000, although dealers are cheered by prospects and have been upgrading their forecasts.

GLT-EDGED: Glits finished with small gains in thin trading. Brokers said investors held back, awaiting the outcome of last night's 30-year US Treasury bond auction and speculation that the Bank of England will announce details of the next auction later today. It is expected to be pitched around the five-year level and commence on February 22.

It was a similar story in the futures pit, where the March long gilt firm ticked to £102 1/2, although turnover was restricted to 39,000 contracts with investors anxiously awaiting today's US producer price numbers. At the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 advanced 1/8 to £59 1/8, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 added three ticks to £98.

NEW YORK: Hi-tech shares continued to lead the market as Wall Street extended its modest gains. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 5.38 points to 3,940.75. US treasuries were mostly lower, with the long bond down 7 1/8 to yield 7.69 per cent.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3940.75 (+5.38)
S&P Composite	460.91 (+0.28)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18099.55 (+190.70)
Hang Seng	8054.88 (+120.05)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	414.67 (+1.14)
Sydney:	
AO	1833.6 (+10.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2112.69 (+25.07)
Singapore:	
Strait	2085.01 (+6.61)
Brussels:	
General	7072.12 (+0.29)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1874.44 (+25.53)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	634.10 (+2.70)
London:	
FT 30	2358.2 (+20.5)
FT 100	3099.0 (+26.5)
FTSE Mid 250	3440.7 (+25.6)
FTSE Smallcap 100	1347.04 (+12.64)
FT All-Share	1525.42 (+1.77)
FT Non Financials	1653.21 (+1.59)
FT Gold Mines	232.4 (+0.9)
Fixed Interest	102.77 (+0.02)
FT Govt Secs	91.77 (+0.03)
Bargains	2452
SEAQ Volume	717.6m
USA (Dow Jones)	148.25 (+0.13)
US\$	1.557 (+0.0003)
German Mark	2.3787 (+0.0003)
Exchange Index	2.787 (+0.1)
Bank of England official rate (4pm)	14.50
ESDR	1.0585
RPI	146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

First Russ Fts (50)	573	+3
Garmore Micro	91	...
Garmore Micro Wts	41	...
Lazard Brita Ida	53p	...
Lazard Brita Ida Wts	32p	...
MCTT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCTT S Inc (35)	36	...
Matheson Lyds Int (100)	81	...
Pentec Oil	90	...
Wessex Trust	10p	...
Woodchester Uts	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cadbury Schwe N/P	69	-1
Dares Estates N/P (4)
Verity N/P (7 1/2)

MAJOR CHANGES

RUBES:	
Schroders	1545p (+22p)
SG Warburg	751p (+15p)
Herbert	291p (+6p)
Redland	448p (+10p)
Wesley	789p (+10p)
Filax	225p (+5p)
Waste Mgt Int	333p (+10p)
Walmough	389p (+13p)
Brit Biotech	580p (+10p)
Proident	545p (+11p)
Watersham	789p (+14p)
Bespak	506p (+17p)
Rediff Com	545p (+17p)
Com Union	518p (+18p)
Gen Accident	540p (+14p)
Legal & Gen	455p (+10p)
Sun Alliance	318p (+14p)
Courtauld	432p (+7p)
Wardle Stores	340p (+13p)
BTR	521p (+7p)
Amsted	148p (+7p)
Tadpole Tech	242p (+12p)
FALLS:	
Greene King	478p (-8p)
Lex Service	282p (-6p)
Broken Hill	858p (-14p)
Mitel	305p (-8p)
Novell	311p (-38p)
Henderson Ad	978p (-17p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS Sleeping gas

THE economic statistics might depict a headstrong recovery on both sides of the Atlantic, but company figures show that the benefits are being spread unevenly across different industries. BOC Group has seen little gain in high margin cylinder gas sales since its main customer is the depressed construction industry.

In spite of this, the group is beginning to slough off the long-dead recession. Demand from the steel industry is lifting demand in the bulk, low-margin end of BOC's business and prices have at last stabilised, although few contracts are showing any increase. The group's forecast of a 7 per cent rise in its dividend this year is the best evidence of its confidence that this recovery will gather pace. Meanwhile, the vacuum division is making all the running, with 31 per cent profit growth

in the quarter, on the back of a buoyant semiconductor industry.

The outlook is less promising in healthcare. Considering that the group set aside a £60 million reorganisation provision to shake up the division a year ago, the 6 per cent profit increase to £15 million is a poor reward. Without one-off items, such as the profit on the sale of the medical engineering systems business, the underlying performance is flat. The performance should improve once BOC finishes distributing the modified vaporizers for Suprane, its new anaesthetic. But two more competitors are due to start manufacturing foreign BOC's off-patent anaesthetic, further depressing prices and margins. The healthcare division looks like a wallflower in a fast-consolidating industry and is distracting the group from its industrial business.

Lex

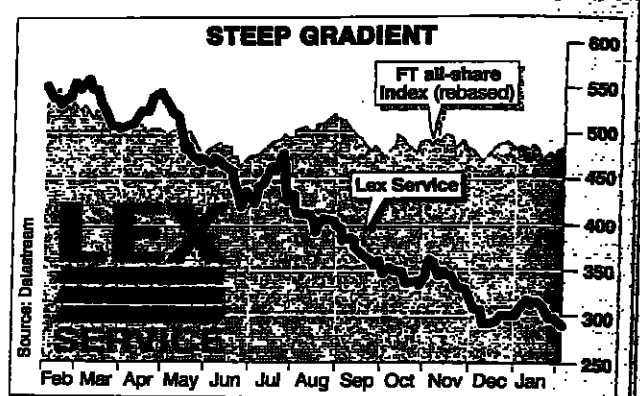
WALK into any car showroom and you can hear the profits being shredded in the back office as the dealer talks up a sale. Few will be surprised to hear that one of the country's larger dealers is forecasting volume and margin pressure. For Lex, traditionally a bullish company, the admission that life is going to be tough indicates a new realism. More impressive is the determination to do something about it by cutting surplus management and forcing dealers to think beyond the forecast.

Few companies in the motor sector can afford to take a £14.5 million hit but Lex boasts a large balance sheet and low gearing. The company is taking out an entire layer of management and organising the dealers into operational regions. In spite of

the rationalisation of the last ten years, motor dealers still operate as small businesses and the restructuring at Lex introduces some modern logistics by forcing dealers in a region to share resources and reduce their stockholdings. That should help Lex to cut costs before the initial payroll saving.

If the market was fair, Lex

shares would have gained value instead of shedding price but investors fear the weak outlook for new car sales volumes. The company's answer is to develop the service business but the real untapped market is the private market in used cars. If Lex could devise a strategy to lure those buyers, it would deserve a re-rating.



STEEP GRADIENT

BTP

BTP is asking the City to take a great deal on trust with its latest rights issue. The company is asking for £52 million to fund a clutch of eight deals that it may or may not pull off in the next few months. Even though BTP's management is well regarded and has brought wisely in the past, the market is not keen on blank cheques like this, and the 17 per cent discount of the rights issue price is ample evidence of the institutions' reluctance to back the issue.

The company could have easily made all the necessary acquisitions and then turned to the market for cash. Gearing would have risen as high as 90 per cent in the short term, but only if all the deals came off which was unlikely. As it is, BTP is risking savage dilution if it does not complete the deals as planned. The City yesterday knocked around 2.2p off earnings forecasts for 1995-96 assuming that the cash will

remain in the bank. Even if BTP spends the cash, the rewards are unlikely to come through quickly. Of the last six acquisitions, only two are now enhancing earnings while the others are coming up to speed.

On the reduced earnings forecast, BTP's rights issue is valued at less than 12 times earnings which is not expensive. But the group will have to buy quickly and wisely to return to the market's favour.

Spurs

IT SEEMS harsh for shareholders in Tottenham Hotspur to again be denied an interim dividend when the company has more than trebled interim profits. The absence of a dividend is blamed on the £1.5 million fine imposed on the club by the Football Association in the wake of allegations about illegal payments to players. Things could have been worse. Tottenham was originally fined £600,000, had six

Premiership points deducted and was thrown out of the lucrative FA Cup competition. The points deduction and the FA Cup ban were overturned on appeal, but the fine increased to £1.5 million. The club's fortunes on the pitch have revived since the appointment of Gerry Francis as manager. Attendances are good and the share price has more than doubled in the past year.

There will be further benefits when redevelopment of the stadium is finished in April, which will increase capacity from 28,000 to 33,000. The absence of a dividend is less painful for the directors since they are in the habit of waiving theirs. It is outside investors whose income is hit. Perhaps if Tottenham's fortunes continue to improve on the pitch, maybe Mr Sugar will loosen the purse strings by the year-end. It is, after all, a game of two halves.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 95	3077.0	3118.0	3066.0
Apr 95	3147.0	3170.0	3121.5
May 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Jun 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Jul 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Aug 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Sep 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Oct 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Nov 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Dec 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Jan 96	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0

MONEY RATES

Base Rates Clearing Banks			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 95	3077.0	3118.0	3066.0
Apr 95	3147.0	3170.0	3121.5
May 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Jun 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Jul 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Aug 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Sep 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Oct 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Nov 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Dec 95	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0
Jan 96	3450.0	3490.0	3450.0

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 9			
Range	Close	1 month	3 months
2.6620-2.6660	2.6620-2.6660	7-7p	10-10p
48.88-49.10	48.88-49.10	7-7p	10-10p
9.3510-9.3740	9.3510-9.3740	7-7p	10-10p
1.0010-1.0030	1.0010-1.0030	7-7p	10-10p
2.3760-2.3810	2.3760-2.3810	7-7p	10-10p
2.4420-2.4470	2.4420-2.4470	7-7p	10-10p
2.0430-2.0480	2.0430-2.0480	7-7p	10-10p
2.5130-2.5180	2.5130-2.5180	7-7p	10-10p
2.1750-2.1780	2.1750-2.1780	7-7p	10-10p
1.5300-1.5370	1.5300-1.5370	7-7p	10-10p
10.9950-10.4220	10.9950-10.4220	7-7p	10-10p
8.2100-8.2200	8.2100-8.2200	7-7p	10-10p
11.5800-11.6320	11.5800-11.6320	7-7p	10-10p
153.61-154.04	153.61-154.04	7-7p	10-10p
16.72-16.77	16.72-16.77	7-7p	10-10p
2.0100-2.0140	2.0100-2.0140	7-7p	10-10p

BOLLAR RATES

alia	1.3412-1.3421
	10.77-10.78
on (Com)	31.47-31.48
	1.3966-1.3976
ert	6.0284-6.0289
	5.2950-5.2970
ing	1.5310-1.5315
ny	7.7308-7.7318
	1.5434-1.5508
	161.00-161.00
	98.94-98.99
	2.570-2.580
lands	1.7151-1.7161
	6.4954-6.4975
ore	157.68-157.74
	1.4535-1.4542
	1.37-1.31.62
	7.4487-7.4563
	1.2941-1.2946

OTHER STEELING	
na peso	1.5544-1.5570
ia dollar	2.0857-2.0878
elmer	0.5795-0.5915
	1.2979-1.3019
ground	1.784-1.786
mark	7.720-7.40

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Abbey catches prize habit

WHEN is a bank not a bank? When it is a building society. Or so it would appear for Abbey National which, in spite of its high-profile conversion to a bank in the 1980s, this week picked up a prize at the annual Building Societies Marketing Awards ceremony, held at the Roof Gardens, Kensington. Said one of the judges: "We certainly pointed out that it was a bank. I can't remember why it was allowed to win. I think it was because all the other entries were so awful." When Abbey asked for permission to enter, the organisers said: "It depends how you see yourself." Its answer was, apparently, to submit an entry in the junk mail category — which it subsequently won. The ceremony, conducted by a rather bemused Peter Hobday of Radio 4's Today programme, was heavy on the pink smoke and bellying promotional videos, but light on entries. Some categories attracted fewer than five.

Sands of time

HAVE any women struggling to be placed in the City considered Egypt? Cairo's weekly newspaper *Sabah el-Khair* reports that Egypt has one belly dancer for every 5,000 inhabitants, and for dancing in hotels or at social weddings, the top 100 dancers can earn up to \$4,400 a night. Beginners get between \$4.5 and \$29. Now wouldn't that look good on a cv?



"It's next year's electricity bill!"

Good fit

TOM FARMER, head of Kwik-Fit, was an apt choice to give a speech at yesterday's World Young Business Achiever ceremony, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh and whose main sponsors include The Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland, British Airways and Worldcom Group. The world award went to Joseph Pangilinan, of the Philippines, a mere 33 years old, who runs a furniture exporting firm. Farmer started business life cleaning ovens, moved into tyres and first retired when 29. Quoting Paul Getty, Farmer said that you only need to do three things to succeed in business. "Get up early. Work late. Find oil."

Off the wall

ROBERT FLEMING has sent four impressionist canvases from the collection it started in 1968 to the exhibition it is sponsoring at the Barbican Gallery in the City — but they are unlikely to be missed. Curator Bill Smith says: "Fleming has about 800 oils or watercolours, and all paintings have Scottish connections, and are mostly by contemporary Scottish artists. Since they hang in our offices worldwide, many Scottish artists are seen for the first time in our foreign boardrooms."

ANOTHER name from a City Diary fan for British invisibles, which should appeal to computer buffs: Wydsiwg (pronounced widge-widge) — what you don't see is what you get!

COLIN CAMPBELL

Adland Japan is a country playing by its own rules

TV commercials have created a genre of their own, says Joanna Pitman

EVEN the sharpest suits and minds from the Tokyo advertising fraternity will be baffled by the riveting reports of the Saatchi & Saatchi executives in the High Court this week trying to prevent their former colleagues from setting up in competition. For a start, figureheads in the Maurice would not exist in the Japanese advertising world, let alone reach the stage of appearing to believe that they are bigger than their company.

Adland Japan is a very different place. Japanese commercials have created a genre of their own. They are sensational, lewd, repetitive, exotic, dishonest, at times stupefyingly banal, but above all the guarantee for success is that they must be obscure.

The Japanese love them. The television viewer is left in little doubt that advertisements are the main point of commercial television. In terms of money and talent invested, many of them far outclass the programmes that are slotted between them.

One commercial for a well-known brand of whisky involves a lizard, a juggler and a dwarf wandering around aimlessly in a desert while someone saws away on a fiddle in the background and a voiceover mutters poetic notions — something about "the poet of eternity, the merchant of the desert" — that might be Rimbaud, but then again, might not.

Pretty perplexing for the punters who expect at least a passing reference to a product, a brand name, some cursory mention of its supposed merits and maybe even a price. But that would be self-defeating in Japan where the public is fully aware that the sand dunes represent the whisky and that if they watch diligently next time, they might discover what sort it is.

Japanese advertisements are generally intended, in a pop video sort of style, to sum up moods in a memorable series of images which will become associated with the brand name in subsequent episodes. In another less challenging commercial, an old man, wrinkled as a walnut but dressed in the very latest gear, prances around wearing a portable CD player as if it were a neural implant. This is an electronics company's way of targeting the rapidly-growing "silver" (pensioners plus) market.

The creative juices in Japan's advertising industry clearly flow in radically different directions from those of our own, but then the industry itself is utterly different. Japan's industry is dominated by just two companies, Dentsu and Hakuhodo, which between them control most domestic billings and growing segments of the world's billings. Hakuhodo estimates that the two companies have 90 per cent of the Japanese market sewn up between



That obscure object of desire: the best Japanese advertisements are the most baffling for the consumer

them, although Dentsu, perhaps wary of claims of excessive control, puts the figure at 40 per cent.

Dentsu is undoubtedly the bigger of the two. Internationally it is ranked fifth on the basis of billings, after the WPP group, Interpublic group, Omnicom and the Saatchi group, but it claims to be the largest single agency in the world. Its billings in 1992 were \$10.5bn.

Dentsu took off in the early 1950s when it entered the television advertising market (nowadays it block buys

develop the ideas, create new business opportunities, manage business trips, publish lifestyle research data, monitor national social and consumer trends. It even helps to make government policy.

"The nature of the service industry in Japan is such that relationships are paramount. The industry is so competitive that if a company asks you to do something, you do not say no. Dentsu is having to pitch for campaigns all the time so we have to be very attentive to our clients. We probably have a Dentsu representative visiting each of our clients every day," says Alison Scott, senior project manager for Dentsu's London branch.

These business connections and relationships are as important in Japanese business as oil is to a Toyota engine, and in Dentsu's case they cover vast swathes of corporate Japan. In press and television they are so extensive that Dentsu is said to be able to influence the news about its own clients if they come under the media glare. Few new products will succeed in the mass market without the support of Dentsu, and the firm even organises think-tanks for government policy.

The Dentsu empire, which functioned before the war as a news agency and advertising firm called Domei and served as a propaganda vehicle for the Government between 1932 and 1945 employs 34,000 people in Japan spread

6 If a firm asks you to do something you do not say no

between dozens of national offices and 25 subsidiaries which include film and video companies, theme park and resort companies, real estate services, property management and insurance.

Hakuhodo by contrast seems tiny, employing 3,500 people in 15 domestic branches and with 17 more offices around the world. It offers an array of services very similar to those of Dentsu.

How do two advertising agencies manage to handle the accounts of dozens of competing companies without conflicts of interest? "In autos for example, Hakuhodo handles accounts with Honda, Toyota and Nissan but the scale and range of business is so vast that there is no question of breach of confidentiality. Each client knows that it will be allocated its own service group, probably located at some distance from that dealing with its rival's account. There is a strict understanding that no details of a client's business will be disclosed between service groups," said Trevor Morphew, client services director at Hakuhodo's London office.

Relationships once formed between a client and its agency are expected to be long-term, or as the Japanese like to say "for life". In the UK, accounts move between agencies roughly once every two years. In Japan a move is very rare and after years of working together, the agency becomes almost an integral part of the client company itself. With the shake-up of Adland UK, we should perhaps expect to see more "total communications solutions" on offer from our own advertising industry.

UK's industrial signpost points the wrong way

Tories are on the wrong track over the minimum wage, says John Edmonds

Trickle down economics has not worked. The rich have become richer and the poor have received very few crumbs from the rich man's table. The Labour movement would do well to press that point hard because it exposes the failure of economic policy over the past 15 years.

Phillip Oppenheim mounts a fierce argument against the minimum wage (January 11) and it is already clear that the issue is a defining point in the right/left battle. But I am surprised by his starting point: "We all want to see a sustainable improvement in the living standards of all our people, particularly the less well off. And of course we all want to see a high income, high skill economy with low unemployment and low inflation."

All this is welcome but it does not square with the reality of government policy. Unemployment has been used as the weapon to fight

policies that promise jam tomorrow. Cuts in pay and benefits seem more and more a cynical trick to help the rich at the expense of the poor.

Phillip Oppenheim quotes evidence from France and America which he believes demonstrates that a minimum wage would cause unemployment. He should read the studies more carefully. The best conclusion from the research is that a pay safety net, when introduced as part of a broader employment policy which involves skill training and a rethink of the welfare state along the lines of Labour's Borrie Commission, can improve employment and job security.

He should also remember his recent parliamentary reply to the Rotherham MP, Denis MacShane, which let the cat out of the bag. He was forced to reveal government statistics which show that employment grew more rapidly in countries that have a minimum wage than in Britain throughout the 1980s. Of course we need a high skill, high wage economy based on high training standards. But we will not persuade employers to train if we keep telling

Cuts in pay and benefits seem a cynical trick to help the rich

ing companies that the best way to prosperity is through low wages. The Government should be pointing to the need to develop the talent of people at work. We will not get an industrial society committed to life-long learning if employers keep seeing the future in terms of low wages and pay cuts.

We need to point Britain's industrial signpost in a different direction. Every company wants its workforce to be a cohesive community, committed to the enterprise and determined to achieve high quality standards. But employees cannot be expected to be wholehearted in their enthusiasm on only £3 or £2 or even £1.80 per hour. And what price teamwork where the boss earns a king's ransom and the workers worry about paying the gas bill. We will not build a modern economy by undermining our people.

The author is General Secretary of the GMB general union.



Edmonds: "rich are richer"

Why everyone in business needs their own mentor

A few years ago, developing the talent of people in business was seen as the sole responsibility of the personnel department. They were the ones with the budget, the time and the expertise. Now many companies believe it is line managers who should be responsible for developing the people around them. But not everyone has the kind of relationship with their line manager where they feel comfortable discussing their career goals or work problems. Indeed the line manager may often be the problem.

The answer is to have a mentor, according to David Clutterbuck, director of the European Mentoring Centre. A mentor is another manager, perhaps more senior but certainly more experienced, with whom an individual can develop a confidential long-term relationship. That person is there to help the person seeking advice through a transition period, whether it be settling into a new job or learning a new skill. The most successful mentoring relationships, says Clutterbuck, often end up as friendships.

In *Mentor Dimensions*, one of a series of management videos co-sponsored by The Times, Clutterbuck explains how to make a mentoring programme work. The rewards, he claims, are considerable. Having such a programme can enable a company to recruit the best talent, get new employees up to speed more quickly, improve staff turnover and increase the effectiveness of formal training. As a result mentoring has become one of the fastest growing methods of developing skills and talent in European companies. It is also growing rapidly in education

and in the community. But as with all arranged marriages, there are some that fail. This is usually because those involved have not been properly prepared or given clear goals. They may also have been given insufficient support. All of which, says Clutterbuck, can be avoided with effective planning and expert advice.

Once established, how can you make a powerful and positive impression on your boss? That key question is answered by Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, in *Winning Ways*, another video in the series. Kakabadse admits that UK bosses, unlike many of their international counterparts, tend to be too directive allowing little leeway for the subtleties of social relationships. Nevertheless if you want to be influential, the first thing to do is understand just who is the boss, a reasonable line of inquiry given the complexity of relationships in large international organisations.

Thereafter, the key to making a favourable impact, says Kakabadse, is to make others feel comfortable. That way, there is no problem or issue that cannot be discussed. The first step is know your boss.

The second is to trust your instincts — not easy when one lacks confidence or feels defensive, but Kakabadse explores how to manage that process. He examines the positive benefits of nurturing a feedback culture in a company. Not only will people feel better and work more effectively as a team, but planning and decision making will improve. See offer form right

THE TIMES Training videos offer

DO YOU want to make a powerful impression on your boss and be influential in your office? *Winning Ways*, a training video featuring the late Brian Redhead, tells you how.

In a witty and penetrating conversation Redhead and Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, make points which are vital to people who work for organisations and are deeply interested in enhancing their careers.

Another video, *Mentoring*, explores one of the fastest-growing methods of developing people within a business.

Mentoring is a way in which experienced staff help other people through transition periods, perhaps by showing them new skills or by helping them adjust to a new job.

Winning Ways runs for 27 minutes, *Mentoring* for more than 19 minutes. These videos are normally sold at £49 each. *Times* readers can buy them for the special price of £49 for two, inclusive of post and packing.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place on the first business day after the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

INFOTECH

Out of the backwoods

Bankers in the West are being left behind in the technology rush, reports

Paul Penrose

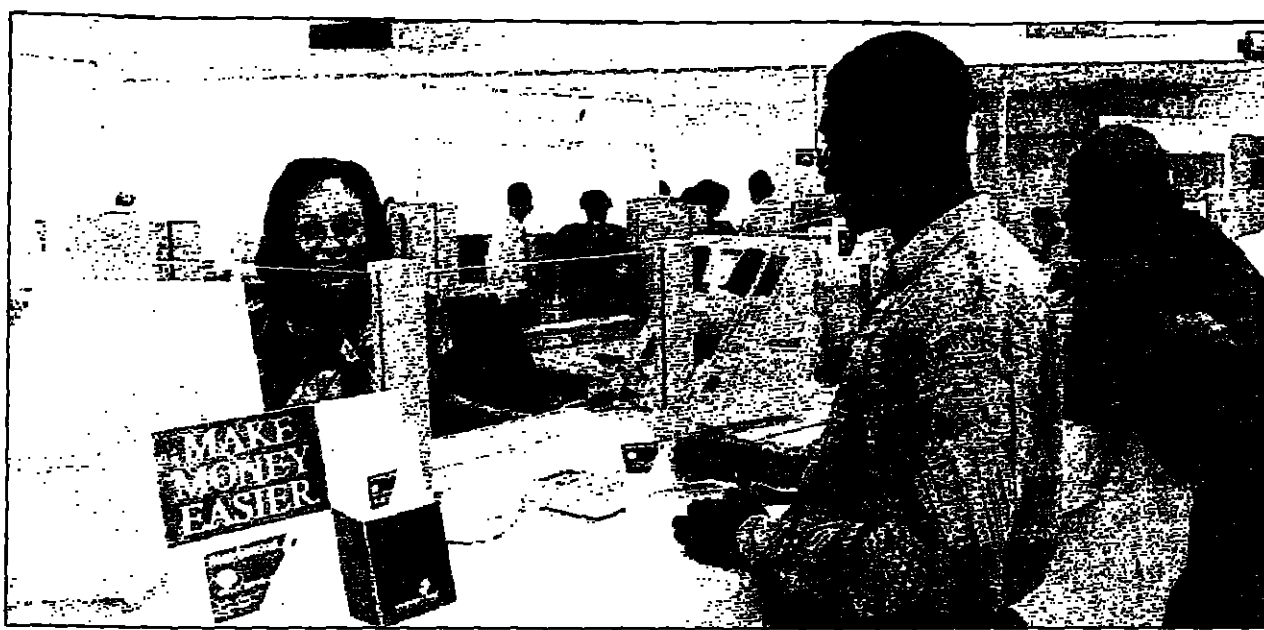
In rural KwaZulu, Natal, pensioners line up outside a security vehicle equipped with a cash machine to pick up their pensions. The machine takes the thumbprint of each claimant, matches it against information stored on the bank card, verifies the identity of the cardholder, then dispenses the pension.

In a Moscow subway station, a customer of the Polis Insurance Company inserts a plastic card embedded with a microchip into a service till and loads the card with the electronic equivalent of roubles. To protect against inflation, the roubles are stored on the card as Deutschmarks. Whenever a transaction or withdrawal is made, the stronger Deutschmark — less susceptible to the ravages of Russian inflation — is converted back to roubles.

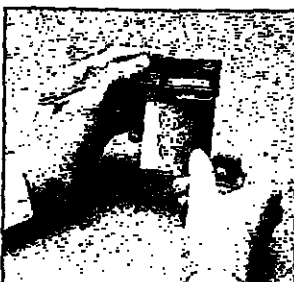
These are just two examples of how governments and businesses in emerging economies are using advanced technology to leap-frog their Western counterparts. Unburdened by any great investment in an existing technological infrastructure, less developed nations around the world are showing their Western competitors a clean pair of heels.

The trend is particularly striking in the banking sector, where the arrival of new technology, such as smart cards, is allowing Third World banks to bypass the traditional progression from savings account to cheque book, to credit cards and cash cards.

The experience of South African banks is a case in point. The end of apartheid, and the opening up of a new



Emerging economies are using advanced technologies, such as smart cards, below left, to leap-frog our banking systems



Datator, is behind the biometric pension system mentioned earlier. FNB's rival, Standard Bank, is working on a similar project to locate biometric cash machines in the offices of large employers. The machines would verify the fingerprints of the worker and download his or her salary into an electronic purse, eliminating the weekly wage packet.

South Africa's banks are not alone in their enthusiasm for modern technology. Meridian BIAO, a pan-African banking organisation, has introduced a smart-card-based electronic purse for its 40,000 retail account holders. Dubbed Meridian Card, it was introduced in Lusaka, Zambia, in September, and is being distributed to customers in Tanzania and Ghana.

Cardholders use a four-digit personal identity number to load the card with electronic currency at automatic card terminals in Meridian branches. Similar terminals at retail outlets are then used to transfer cash from the card in return for purchases.

The confluence of circumstances that have forced the pace of ultra-modern initiatives such as the electronic purse — a geographically dis-

persed population, ramshackle telecommunications infrastructure and a hard cash culture — is not unique to Africa. Inflationary economies in the former Soviet bloc and untapped markets such as China are tipped by industry experts as the next beneficiaries of the plastic banking revolution.

The British bankers behind the Mondex electronic purse have identified such underdeveloped regions of the world as prime targets for their worldwide marketing. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation recently acquired the rights to franchise Mondex in Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Macao, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

Mondex is unique among electronic cash schemes in that it allows the transfer of money from cardholder to cardholder. The portable chip cards can be loaded up with cash value using specially designed telephone handsets.

Mondex says that in China, where security vans transporting cash across the continent are regularly prey to armed

bandits, the central bank is interested in the cards as a means of instantaneously transferring money to remote villages. Similarly in Russia, where criminals have taken to holding up banknote printing presses, Mondex has its attractions.

Ironically, few of these economic incentives hold much interest for Western Europe. They will be hard pushed to replace cash and existing plastic payment methods.

So, while peasants in remote countries experience the latest in information technology at first hand, British consumers will still be cursing at cash machines and fumbling for chequebooks well into the future.

Paedophiles are said to be using the Internet

One of the problems with the vast amount of information on the Internet is that hidden away among it all is pornography. The most immediate concern has been that there is no way to control the age of people accessing the sexually explicit messages and pictures available to those who know where to look.

Now a Swedish researcher is warning parents that paedophiles are increasingly using the network to exchange pictures and messages and that they can do it anonymously. There is also the fear that they could use the Internet to make contact with children by computer and try to lure them into a meeting.

Mats Wiklund, a researcher at Stockholm University, says that in one week he was recently able to access 5651 messages or "postings" about child sex held in four so-called "newsgroups".

Among the postings, he says, about 800 were pictures of adults and adolescents engaged in sexual acts. He adds that at least eight showed young children, possibly aged between eight and 10. "The younger ones are not being shown in indecent acts," he says, "but they are being used as bait."

There are thousands of newsgroups on the Internet, each offering a specialist area in which people can discuss common interests, ask or answer queries and "post" stories or pictures.

New fears about the Net

Groups range from those discussing obscure computer-operating systems to electronic fan clubs for television series such as *Star Trek* and *The X-Files*. There are also some sexually explicit newsgroups in which subjects range from strip clubs to fetishism. Most Internet subscribers can look at the information being dis-

tributors. Even if they were removed, the chances are that the paedophiles would just put their messages and pictures somewhere else on the Internet.

Because the network makes available so much information and is held on thousands of different computers, any attempt to supervise the content comprehensively is impossible. The situation is made more difficult because the Internet works effortlessly across national boundaries — users may often be accessing information from several different countries without even realising it.

This can leave authorities in a legal grey zone where, for example, what is stored in one country legally is accessed by someone in a country where it is illegal.

Mr Wiklund said he was able to trace the origins of the pictures he discovered only as far as a "server" computer in Finland, one of several set up privately to give Internet users anonymity. Like an electronic filter, the server receives the information but strips off its origin and relays it — anonymously — to its destination in a matter of seconds.

Mr Wiklund says: "The Internet has become a channel of communication for paedophiles. They've found a technology with which they can be anonymous yet still be reached."

MATTHEW MAY

It would be impossible to supervise properly the content of the information

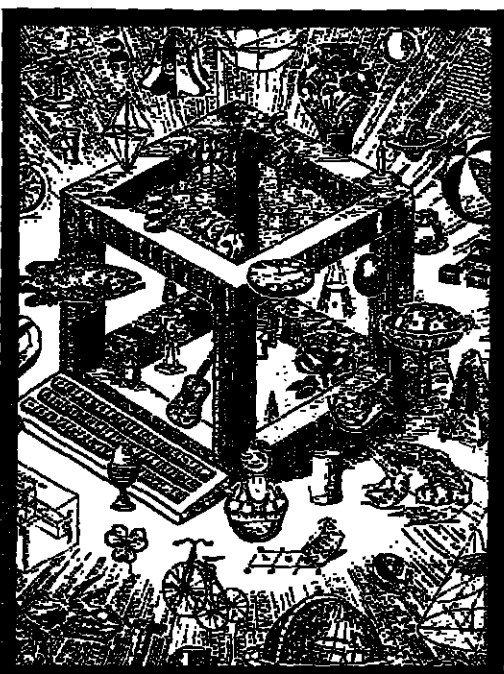
played, regardless of whether they want to contribute.

A few of the companies that provide users with their link to the Internet do not carry the more salacious newsgroups. Others do not list them in their directories, but they are available. The attitude is that people should not be able to stumble across them accidentally.

But it is these newsgroups that have been used by paedophiles, much to the annoyance of the majority of

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New software designed to verify signatures may help to curtail forgery, says Matthew May

Signing on, signing off

Are the days about to end when cashiers and sales assistants give you furtive looks as they try to decide whether your hastily scribbled signature on a cheque or credit card slip can possibly have been done by the same person who signed the accompanying credit or cheque card? Will cash machines start to ask you to sign your name rather than put in a PIN number?

Quite possibly, says AEA Technology, which has just developed new software for automatic signature verification. The system, it claims, is a highly effective weapon against credit card, benefit and other fraudulent crime. An added advantage is that it relieves staff of the task of judging the authenticity of people's signatures, which can be unpleasant when they get it wrong.

Getting a computer to recognise a quickly executed scrawl done by the same person who made a leisurely signature on a card perhaps a year ago might seem one of the more difficult of technological tricks to perform.

Signatures are not and cannot be expected to be identical each time they are written. But the system, called Countermatch, does not look at the signatures in the same way as a human. Instead, it uses a wired pen to collect information about the shape and timing of a signature — things that are fairly consistent even though one version of a signature may look very different from another.

This means that a potential forger would not only have to make

the signature look the same but would need to reproduce the way in which it was written — a far more difficult task.

AEA — which evolved from the Atomic Energy Authority — says the result is a system that can detect a forged signature 19 times out of 20 and that is considerably more accurate than the human eye.

To work, the system requires stored versions of a signature, usually three examples, that would have to be taken at an enrolment stage, for instance, when signing up for a credit card.

The precise details of how the software works are a commercial secret, says Andy Lewcock, business development manager for the company. He believes that among the organisations that can control the whole process of storing and checking signatures — such as retailers which run their own loyalty card schemes — will probably be among the first customers.

Countermatch was tested last year with the Employment Service in Liverpool and Tyneside to see whether it could verify claimants' identities. When clients signed on each fortnight they used the wired pen to sign a form which was clipped over a digitising tablet.

Four thousand people making 40,000 signatures were recorded. AEA says that 98 per cent were accepted as genuine, and that the system wrongly rejected only 0.1 per cent. There was also a deterrent effect, with a rise in the number of



Countermatch uses a wired pen to collect information about the shape and timing of a signature

individuals who stopped claiming benefits after the equipment was introduced.

Mr Lewcock believes that computerised validation of signatures will have to become common practice as organisations move

away from paper to electronic documents. Electronic business that can be conducted in seconds can still be held up at the last minute by the need for a signature on paper.

In the longer term, signing a

computer tablet next to your PC at home, for example to authorise an online payment, might well be feasible, Mr Lewcock says. He predicts that the cost of the computer tablet needed will soon drop below £100.

ONLINE

Loosened ties

IBM, long a paragon of corporate culture, has never had a formal dress policy but its unwritten dress code was starched white shirts, dark suits and dull ties.

The 800 staff at IBM headquarters in Armonk, New York, have now been told that they can show up in whatever they think acceptable. Louis Gerstner, IBM chairman, also wants to replace the headquarters with a smaller building in the woods nearby to provide a "campus-like" setting.

Big, small, smaller

JUST how big is the Internet? Smaller than many think, perhaps. According to a survey by Matrix Information and Directory Services, based in Austin, Texas, the number of fully connected users is only 7.9 million people.

Even if you add subscribers to those commercial online services that allow them to link into most Internet services, the figure rises only to 13.5 million.

The 20 or 30 million figure bandied about, Matrix says, applies only if you count everyone on the planet who can send electronic mail to each other — which it estimates at 27.9 million people.

Cutting chips costs

BARELY a month after Intel faced an uproar over a flaw in its Pentium computer chips, the company has cut prices on the chips by 7 to 40 per cent.

The Pentium is presently the fastest chip on the market for personal computers and the price cuts could help to build demand for the device, whose reputation has been badly battered.

Details of the company's next chip, the P6, which will run two to

three times as fast as the Pentium, will be announced next week. Intel has also sharply cut the prices for 486 chips. PC makers have recently been dropping prices on notebook computers using older Intel chips.

On the big screen

WHAT is billed as the world's biggest television monitor went into operation last week at Tokyo metropolitan police's traffic control centre. It is being used to show traffic conditions throughout the city. The £12 million device, produced by Hitachi, is 20ft high and 83ft wide and transmits images using a rear projection method. It consists of a central screen, 40ft wide, and two square side screens.

Germany calling

CABLE & Wireless is planning to offer fax services in Germany which it says could halve the cost of business faxes to America.

The faxes will be rerouted to London and handled by Mercury, the company's British handler. Deutsche Telekom has a monopoly on basic services until 1998.

Boarding party

A TEENAGER in New Jersey who is alleged to have used his pirate bulletin board to distribute hundreds of pirated software programs has agreed to pay Microsoft and Novell \$25,000 (£15,800) and to surrender his computer equipment.

Pirate bulletin boards typically allow computer users to download illegally copied software either for a fee or by trading with software that the bulletin board does not already have. The youth is said to have distributed at least 60 Microsoft and Novell products.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May.
E-mail address:
matt... times@delphi.com

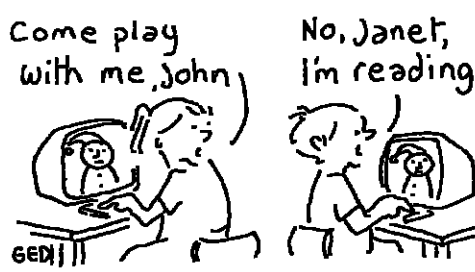
More than child's play

Home computers generally fall into two groups: full-blown desktop machines or games consoles that link up to a television. But some companies are hoping that many parents will consider a third option — a home computer that does not look or work like a conventional desktop personal computer but offers a greater range of software titles than does a games console.

Supporters of these "pseudo-computers" say that they are easier to operate, can be used with any television set and offer a good mix of educational and entertainment titles. But others argue that parents would be better off buying a conventional computer, which enables their family to do much more.

At the end of March, Sega, the Japanese games giant, will launch a children's computer in Europe called Pico. It will be aimed at children aged between three and six.

When parents want to buy a computer for children, what can they get?



launched a children's computer in Europe called Pico. It will be aimed at children aged between three and six. Pico, which will cost about £150, looks like a small plastic briefcase that opens up to

reveal a flip-up stand and tray. It has no built-in monitor, but links up to a home television set.

Though Pico looks like a toy, it contains the same powerful computer chip used in Sega's Mega Drive games console. Instead of using games cartridges, Pico plays £30 interactive books, which look like the thick cardboard storybooks designed for young children.

Each page contains brightly coloured pictures and text, which are also seen on the television screen. By touching parts of the page with an electronic pen, the child can make the objects appear to come to life on the TV set.

Apple Computer is also hoping to get into this market. It is developing Pippin, a CD-Rom system which plugs into a TV and is operated by a handset rather than keyboard. It will play a mixture of educational, reference and games CD-Rom titles, many of which could be adapted from existing programs for the Apple Macintosh. Pippin CD-Roms will also play on Apple Macintosh machines.

Bandai, the Japanese toy manufacturer, plans to launch a Pippin CD-Rom player, costing about £250, later this year. But even at these prices, some parents may prefer to save up for a multimedia PC, which plays CD-Roms. At more than £1,000, the machines are not cheap, but they are versatile.

John Davitt, an educational consultant, says that parents who buy console-type machines are at the mercy of the software publishers. "You cannot do much with a console, except play software," he says. "But if you buy a home computer, your children can use the word processor, graphics and other packages to create their own learning materials."

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Waiting for Windows

Microsoft's long-delayed new operating system, Windows 95, is not a popular subject in the boardrooms of personal computer companies. By the time it finally appears, probably by September, it will be more than a year behind schedule. The delay has cost almost everyone in the computer industry dearly.

Software applications designed to take advantage of Windows 95's many new features have been sidelined for months, impossible to sell, so putting on ice the profitable upgrade cycle that keeps many of today's applications companies in business.

Hardware manufacturers, meanwhile, can do nothing with the array of new peripherals and PCs designed to take advantage of the extra speed and ease of use that the operating system promises.

Yet for one group, Windows 95 is already proving an extraordinary success. It is starting to generate a burst in recruitment activity for the technical support specialists who will hold the hands of new users.

Tony Entlinger, director of product support services for Microsoft in the UK, estimates that the launch of Windows 95 will create 200 jobs within his own company, and in the third-party technical support companies Microsoft will

Recruitment for Windows 95 support experts has begun, says David Hewson

by using to handle the flood of inquiries it expects when the software goes public.

To that must be added the overload in requests for technical support forecast for elsewhere in the industry. The large PC manufacturers which will be including Windows 95 on their PCs have agreed to take over the job of technical support for both the operating system as well as for their own hardware. Application software companies, who frequently complain that many of the calls they receive originate from operating system issues, are likely to find themselves faced with a similar deluge of queries.

The salary for a technical support expert is between £16,000 and £40,000 a year, depending on experience and relevant skills. But the very newness of Windows 95 makes it difficult for any but the most select to be able to assist them with a detailed working knowledge.

The operating system is a ground-up rewrite of the way PC compatible computers work. While it may have a few surface similarities with the current version of

Windows, underneath it is a completely new product.

To complicate matters further, Microsoft will be including with the system a raft of new, integrated applications, including electronic mail and online network software, a terminal program, networking links and a personal scheduler.

Planning for the increase in Windows 95 expertise in Mr Entlinger's department has been going on for months. He has a small team working on a dedicated phone network to support the few hundred test users working with the trial version of the software.

This will increase substantially in April when Microsoft is planning to send about 40,000 copies of a new test version to selected users in Britain as part of an exercise to seed a total of 400,000 versions of the package around the world.

By launch time, Microsoft's internal technical support staff will have the capacity to handle 500 phone lines simultaneously, and a network of outside support companies will also be mulling calls through a set of phone numbers

that seamlessly distribute queries across a wide spread of geographical locations.

Both Microsoft and its agents have had to take a practical attitude to hiring new staff and training existing workers. Mr Entlinger says: "We can't hire people who can claim Windows 95 skills at the moment because so few people have experience of it."

"But we do expect people to have a good technical background and sound customer-service skills. You can be the best engineer in the world but you are of little use to us if you aren't interested in helping customers."

One long-term benefit Microsoft hopes to reap from Windows 95 is a fall-off in the number of routine, simple calls it now receives. The new operating system is packed with help facilities that lead the user through tasks such as setting up a new printer.

The future of much of the technical support, Mr Entlinger believes, will involve more difficult, individual problems to do with software sophistication rather than everyday calls from people who cannot get their mouse to work because it is plugged into the wrong socket.

But first, Microsoft must convince the world that Windows 95 is the way to go.



Tony Entlinger: he has a team working on a dedicated phone network to support test users

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THEATRE page 32
Bernard Hill adds
weight, force and
danger to Arthur Miller's
View from the Bridge

ARTS

POP page 33

David Sinclair talks to
Morrissey, and reviews
the opening concerts of
his latest national tour



OPERA: Melvyn Bragg condemns an Arts Council report recommending the scaling-down of ENO

Stop sniping at the Coliseum

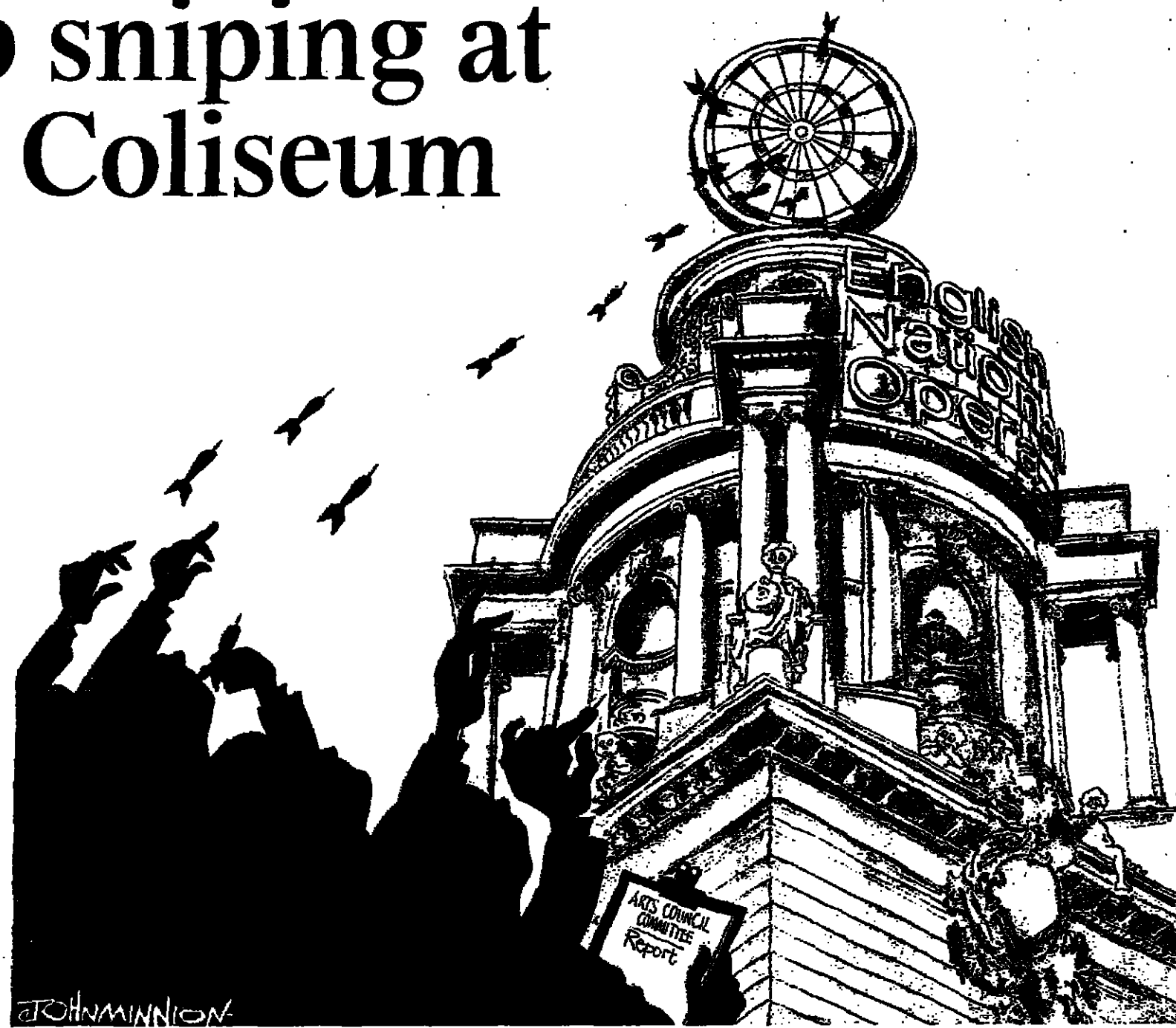
The youthful and sparky English National Opera, housed in the unlikely, decaying grandeur of the Coliseum, is one of the glories of London. It has brought opera in English to millions of enthusiasts and brought new audiences to opera in the process. It is the only full-time, year-round opera company with a staff of musicians, directors and coaches to train the talent of the future.

It has not done too badly in its recent past. Anne Evans and John Tomlinson — Brünnhilde and Wotan at Bayreuth — developed their early careers at ENO, as did Thomas Allen, Josephine Barston and Dame Janet Baker. Down among the directors, Nicholas Hytner, Graham Vick and Steven Pimlott were all trained as staff producers at ENO and are now scattered in triumphs abroad. Jonathan Miller is a one-off, but his *Mikado*, *Rigoletto*, *Figaro* and *Rosencavalier* at ENO were not only intelligent reworkings but surely set him up for his distinguished career in Europe and America and most recently back in London at the Royal Opera.

There was Mark Elder in the pit; and Stefan Lazaridis and David Fielding with the designs. And there was (and is) an audience which ranges comfortably from dinner jackets to bomber jackets and is proud that, of all the major opera companies in the world, ENO has recently been the most adventurous and the boldest, while never being afraid to deliver the golden *edibles* that we all think we know and want to love.

Add to this small-stage work, its encouragement of domestic writers and composers, its strenuous independence and its rocket-burst in audiences over the past few months, and we are undoubtedly looking at a winner. Even a model. A tribute to shrewd management, philanthropy and a notion of accessibility in its challenge to a younger London audience which responds to challenge at present more than to anything else.

So do we cherish it? Do we love it and honour it? Of course not. We send in a hurried little committee scratched up by the Arts Council of England, and none too subtly set out to scuttle it. This has become a serious British disease: in board rooms and quangos, in sport and government and in the arts: give the control to committees touchingly free of direct professional experience



of that over which they exercise power, and then wonder why things don't work out.

This committee, advising on the future of opera and dance in London, and sent in by Lord Gowrie to do a "geological survey" (of a kind which would surely puzzle any self-respecting geologist) spent less than four hours talking with the directors and senior management at ENO. A television programme would spend five times as long as that doing a "geological survey" of a single production. But less than four hours was quite enough for our non-operative committee of four, led by Dennis Stevenson — a man of many hats, recently called Mr Fixit.

Well, he appears to be fixing it so that ENO is undervalued and diminished. One of the tricks this report uses is to compare and contrast. It is a weary old cliché. You use BBC1 to bash ITV and vice versa; the commercial theatre to bash the subsidised theatre and vice versa. Here the Royal Opera House (which is to be congratulated for being promised everything it could ever have wished for in the

report) is used to discredit ENO. I am sure that Jeremy Isaacs is not amused. It is obvious to anybody but this committee that they do different tasks. But they are, on any fair count, equally successful. Each has its own considerable strengths. But the pumping-up of the ROH gives the rather uneasy prose of the ENO put-down more apparent credibility.

It needs all the credibility it can muster, because its statistics and factual assertions let it down as badly as I have ever seen in a public document about arts policy. To give just a few examples from many. The report criticises the ENO audience on the basis of surveys in 1991 and 1993 and takes no account at all of the six per cent rise in ENO audiences in 1993-94 and the 24 per cent rise this season. The report observes that capacity for grand opera in London outstrips demand.

With ENO playing to 77 per cent capacity and the ROH playing to 38 per cent, how can this be possible? Surely some elementary mathematical mistake here. And, incidentally, such figures would prompt any West End producer to leaps of joy unconfined.

The report states that the aggregate audience for the ROH, ENO and Sadler's Wells in 1993-94 was 4,150, surely it is much more relevant that in 1994-95 the ROH and ENO alone exceeded 5,000. Shall I go on? The report gets the number of ENO performances wrong; it ignores the fact that more people go to opera at the Coliseum than at the ROH. It ignores ENO's proposals about dance; it ignores the urgent repairs required for the Coliseum which would cost only 23 per cent of the ROH repair scheme, and still keep the average ticket price at £25 compared with the ROH's £68.

'We send in a little committee, and set out to scuttle ENO'

It would be unfair (although it is tempting) to blame the report on four people in a hurry. It would be unjust to say that Lord Gowrie has asked for too much too soon and given his committee too few resources. It would be dangerous to suggest that there is an unexpressed and rather complacent agenda, and that the good old Royal Opera House and the game old Sadler's Wells are somehow enough, and that we are on a high plateau and so we can cut down the feisty creative bunch in the fighting Coliseum.

But such thoughts do cross the mind in moments of dismay that such a half-cocked report can be published with such confidence. And to such immediately damaging effect. For example, by recommending the postponement of urgent development, this document has (ENO reckons) already resulted in "the postponement of £1.75 million worth of pledges".

I hope that sense prevails and that this consultative document is heavily and thoroughly redrafted or thrown out as soon as possible. For

what it reveals above all is the poverty of imagination afflicting the overseeing of arts policy in this country. This is a document of ditherers. It heads for the past whenever it can. If it sees a hole it sticks its ostrich head into it.

I refuses to take on board the challenge of creating a dance theatre for London, for instance. It takes cover in statistics which (neatly as it turns out) seem to prove "that audiences for opera are declining". It has no grasp of the opportunity available.

In this country we have more than 500,000 people working in an expanding industry across the arts. This industry is already a world leader. It has been built on confidence and boldness, with London as a particular jewel. It deserves much better than to be subjected to such a limiting appraisal, and ENO deserves all the support Lord Gowrie can give it to make up for the damage already inflicted by a document which is simply not good enough for ENO, for London, or for the future of the arts in Britain.

CONCERTS: Jazz and a young orchestra

Architecture with a woman's touch

Nikki Iles
Purcell Room

IT IS a rare jazz concert indeed which begins with a hushed introductory passage involving bells, bass clarinet and cello, but then composer/pianist Nikki Iles has never allowed herself to be unduly restricted by arbitrary categories. In addition to contributing her limpid piano playing to the small-group music of such emerging stars as bassist Sylvan Richardson and guitarist Mike Walker, she leads her own band, the Architects, and has collaborated in the last couple of years with writers' groups in Cheshire, the IOU Theatre Group, and with American dancer/choreographer Mimi Cichanowicz. The bells ushered in a gently lilting version of Bill Evans's *My Bells*, and their deployment was a welcome indication of Iles's dextrous adventurousness as an arranger, her skill in exploiting the considerable textural variety provided by her band. An octet drawn in the main from the flexible, larger Creative Jazz Orchestra, it placed at Iles's disposal, courtesy of the multi-instrumental skills of frontline reed players Andy Schofield and Iain Dixon, not just the conventional jazz instrumentation of saxophones, guitar and rhythm section, but also much more unusual combinations of flutes, clarinets, cello and French horn.

In the first half, the octet would typically begin a piece as an oddly attractive species of chamber group, with bass, cello and bass clarinet setting the mood, then switch seamlessly into straight-ahead jazz, with Mike Walker's guitar and Schofield's alto soloing over a gently shuffling rhythm.

After the interval and a lush version of Charlie Haden's plangent *Sandino* featuring French-horn player Alan Tokeley, Iles unveiled *The Printmakers*, a suite of five pieces, each dedicated to a woman in jazz particularly inspirational to the composer: singers Norma Winstone and Billie Holiday, contemporary composer/pianists Carla Bley and Geri Allen, and the doyenne of jazz women Mary Lou Williams.

Given the range of material they had to play, the octet unsurprisingly sounded a little over formal at times, but in general this was an intriguingly varied and original programme, and one which marked out Iles both as an arranger of considerable talent and as a gifted composer.

CHRIS PARKER

Bolder in the past

YMSO/Menubhin
Festival Hall

THERE was a time when the name of the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra was synonymous with musical adventure. Concerts, usually at St John's, Smith Square, might have been poorly attended more often than not, but they were rightly regarded as some of the most lively musical events in London.

But times change. Now the YMSO plays at the Festival Hall and the Barbican. Its members, rather absurdly in my view, wear tails, and wind and brass departments are peopled by accomplished post-graduates from the Guildhall School. The strings have significantly improved.

Yet although there is still the occasional programme to whet the adventurous appetite — the UK premiere of John Corigliano's *First Symphony* two years ago, for instance — nowadays they are far more likely to play safe. So next month, under the baton of the YMSO's founder and principal conductor, James Blair, there is a programme of film music at the Barbican. Hardly the most enlightening or demanding training ground for young players, but it will lure the punters. And on Wednesday the orchestra's president, Lord Menubhin, conducted an all-Russian programme in the presence of the Russian ambassador that would fill any

hall at any time. It was generally good, but routine.

The riskiest music-making came in Shostakovich's *First Cello Concerto*, not because the choice of work was particularly daring but because the performance seemed to hang by such a delicate thread. The soloist, Felix Schmidt, wildly applauded at the end by his colleagues, trod carefully, approaching the cadenza like an Alpine rock-face and momentarily losing his hold once or twice. Menubhin's beat was of the dogged kind, leaving no room to shape phrases or sections properly. But the all-important solo horn player, Daniel Edwards, gave a fine account of himself, sturdy and sure and cool.

Otherwise, Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*, heard as usual in Rimsky-Korsakov's wonderful orchestration, provided a showcase for some opulent brass playing and razor-sharp percussion. And Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique Symphony* had confidence in plenty, with the added bonus of a second movement that resisted over-savagery and a March that had real menace.

STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA: Porgy and Bess and Dido and Aeneas at Houston Grand Opera

The writing is on the wall

Houston Grand Opera's premiere production of *Harvey Milk*, reviewed last week, is running in repertory with new stagings of two other English-language operas — *Porgy and Bess* and *Dido and Aeneas*. If bound hand and foot with a noose round my neck and a six-shooter cocked at my temple, I might concede that there was a case for performing the new work with superlatives, though the excellent cast ensured that the text was easily audible.

But titles for *Porgy*, a piece familiar to every theatregoer in the USA? And *Dido*, whose light accompaniment guarantees audibility of the text? Will people only go to opera nowadays if they can "read" the performance rather than listen to it? (And the well-meaning but condescending *Porgy* libretto does not "read" at all well today.)

It would be impertinent for a Brit to tell Americans how to perform *Porgy*, but impertinence is my second name. Perhaps I was expecting too much from the first staging of the piece by an African-American woman — fresh, sympathetic insight into the character of Bess, for instance. But not under the direction of



Stacey Robinson (Crown), Marquita Lister (Bess) and Alvy Powell (Porgy) in Hope Clarke's *Porgy* staging

Hope Clarke, all was time-dishonoured routine, over-giving to Production Numbers and reinforcing rather than undermining stereotypes. If D'Oyly Carte were to stage *Peter Grimes*, it might look something like this, and to watch it amid a well-heeled white audience was squirm-making.

The show was well conducted by the experienced John DeMain, but very unevenly cast. Angela Simpson was an outstanding Serena, sumptuous of voice and dignified of

especially for a production about to embark on a nationwide tour — deserves better. As for *Dido*, well, this so-called "authentic" co-production with Opera Atelier of Canada was a collector's item. It was extremely well conducted by Marc Minkowski, and decently sung — more than decently in the case of Linda Maguire's warm-toned Dido.

Otherwise, much led me to suspect that this was the Grand Opera company of New York under another name. Visually it was a symphony of mimesy posturing in high heels, revealing miniskirts, black lipstick and too much rouge — and that's just the chaps. Neither costumes nor choreography were remotely in period, either Purcell's or any other, and the whole caboodle was so camp as to make one of Lina Lalandi's "authentic" evenings look like a rugby international.

If, as is rumoured, this embarrassing farago is brought to the Proms, it will surely be hoisted off the platform, and if anything half as unworthy of Purcell's genius is served up in this, his tercentenary, I shall be surprised (and very angry).

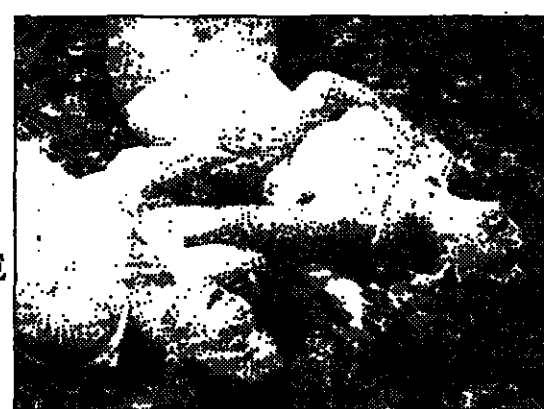
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Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, hears the King of the Kronk's plans for Lennox Lewis

Steward trains his eye on another title

When Lennox Lewis was knocked down by Oliver McCall last September at Wembley Arena, most boxing experts who had serious reservations about Lewis were convinced that he was really no more than just another British heavyweight of the horizontal variety.

They had waited to see whether Lewis could take it on the chin and found that he could not. The future looked bleak for Lewis. What hope for him with men like Mike Tyson and Riddick Bowe around? It would be impossible for Lewis to avoid taking a similar blow from one or both of them.

Yet Emanuel Steward, who became Lewis's trainer after plotting his downfall when training McCall, says Lewis could become the greatest heavyweight since Muhammad Ali.

Such a claim must be part of a huge psychological plan to lift Lewis's spirits, you would think. But when one remembers Steward's achievements and that Cassius Clay looked just as unsteady on his feet after a left hook from Henry Cooper had sent him to the floor 31 years ago at Wembley, it is possible to see that this softly-spoken and serious trainer means what he says. Having been voted the trainer of 1994 by the boxing writers of America, how could he possibly want to become the laughing-stock of 1995?

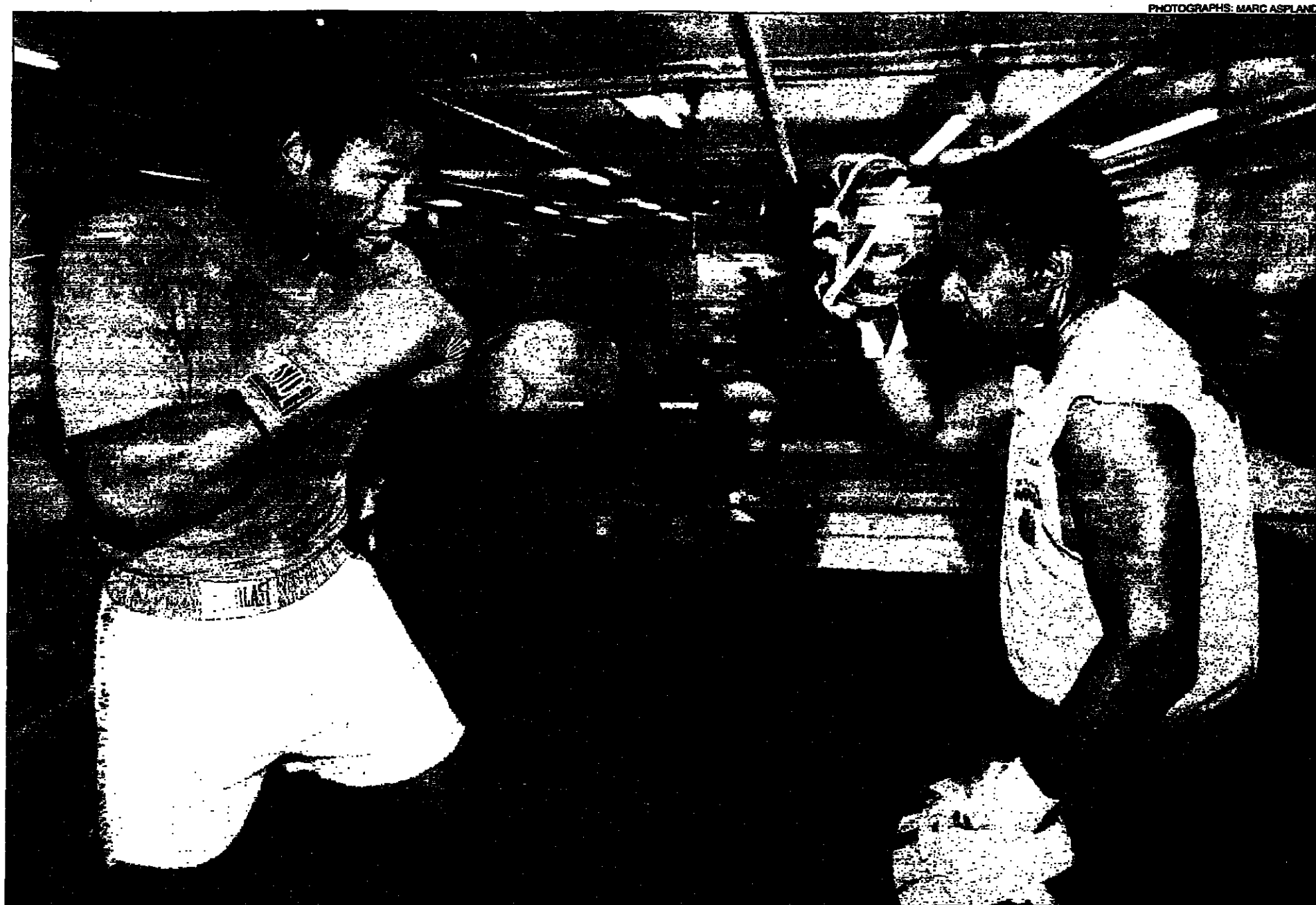
When one looks at Steward's record, disbelief is put to one side. As director of the Kronk Gym in Detroit, he has been associated with 22 world champions, including Thomas Hearns, Milton McCrory, Mike McCallum, Gerald McClellan, Evander Holyfield, Michael Moorer and Julio César Chávez. His greatest achievements were to revive the career of Dennis Andries and to turn McCall, who was no more than a sparring partner, into a world champion.

He taught Andries and McCall to box. Andries learnt balance and leverage, McCall found technique and self-belief. Typical of Steward's creative thinking was the way in which he turned McCall into a boxer, realising that everyone expected the challenger to have a brawl with Lewis. To achieve this radical change, he made McCall wear white in training instead of his usual black. Black made him fight like Tyson, his former employer. White was the colour associated with Ali. "It worked," Steward said. "It was so simple."

Steward was born to succeed. The son of a West Virginia coalminer, he showed amazing enterprise from an early age. When his parents divorced and his mother, Catherine, moved to Detroit, Emanuel, at 11 the eldest of four children, helped his mother look after his brother, James, and sisters, Diane and Levern. He sold hot tamales on the streets and ice-cream from a bicycle wagon, delivered newspapers, carried groceries for supermarket customers, cut grass, raked leaves and landscaped gardens, all the while boxing in the evenings.

He bought his own car by the age of 15 and by 17 had graduated from Eastern High and was teaching boxing. The same year, he lifted the National Golden Gloves bantamweight title in Chicago. It was his first bout outside Michigan, his first experience of eating in a "nice" restaurant, and his first taste of the sweet-smelling world of successful people. He joined Detroit Edison as a construction labourer and rose to the position of special projects director in eight years.

Steward left Edison in 1972 to take up full-time coaching at the Kronk and immediately won national acclaim by taking the Detroit team to 21 consecutive Golden Gloves victories without a defeat. By 1974 he was installed in the basement of the Kronk Recreation Centre. "My brother, James, was my first amateur champion. Hilmer Kenty was my first professional champion. And then came Tommy Hearns. The rest is



Steward brings the training skills of the Kronk to Canning Town soon after being given the task of rebuilding Lewis's career in the wake of his defeat by McCall

history," Steward said. Hearns went on to win titles at five different weights. Today, at the age of 49, Steward looks no more than a light-welterweight, perhaps, and imparts the quiet confidence of a businessman with a full order book. Apart from a couple of golden highlights on his wrist and fingers, the trappings of success are not immediately obvious. If you did not know him, you would not know that back in Detroit he is one of the city's important personalities.

He has five mansions in the Rosedale Park area, a restaurant, Emanuel Steward's Place, and a fleet of cars to match an oil sheik's collection. His daughter, Sylvia, is a successful boxing promoter and his other daughter, Sylvette, a film director. "She's going to make the story of Lennox Lewis," Steward said. Steward is in the process of buying another house two doors away from his for Lewis to stay in when training in Detroit. "Lewis doesn't like staying in hotels and likes his mother to do the cooking. So he will be quite comfortable when he's in Detroit."

"The best place for him is the Kronk Gym. There are good fighters there for him. Milton McCrory and Tommy Hearns are anxious to come down and help me. We are also going to spend time in London. Lennox is the most talented heavyweight but is also the biggest disappointment. When you start struggling with Frank Bruno then

credibility goes down the drain. But in three months I will have him like I want him. He fights like my fighters, anyway."

Steward does not see Lewis having any problems with Tyson or Bowe. "Tyson will be the easiest fight for Lewis, a total mismatch, as will George Foreman. Lennox is too good and too big for Tyson. You guys keep forgetting the Mike Tyson that went to prison was not that much of a fighter any more. Everyone keeps remembering the Tyson of his prime. He struggled with Razor Ruddock, throwing one punch at a time. Physically, he's too

small. I don't think the fight will go over two rounds. "The best opponent for Lewis is Bowe. He is a good, basic, fundamental kid, not exceptional in any area. At one time he was very focused but he'll never be what he once was. Lennox is two notches above him and will knock him out."

"I am lucky that I have come across a perfect specimen for a heavyweight. That is why I have made so many sacrifices: giving up the opportunity to train Tyson when he comes out, Tucker, McCall and even Holyfield."

Steward says that for too long he had been a "professional hit man", rebuilding boxers. He had always wanted a heavyweight he could stay with and take from one level to the next.

"My idea for Lennox is to make him into a large version of Sugar Ray Robinson, not Ali because Lennox can do things Ali couldn't do. Lennox can box but still has that tremendous raw-boned punching power, so he should be a much more exciting fighter than Ali. Robinson was the fighter I admired most. Lennox can be my Sugar Ray Robinson."

Steward, left, and Lewis look forward to reclaiming the world heavyweight title



Steward, left, and Lewis look forward to reclaiming the world heavyweight title

Maloney bids for bout with Butler

BY SRIKUMAR SEN

LENNOX LEWIS was waiting yesterday to hear when his next bout, an eliminator against Lionel Butler, who is ranked No 3 by the World Boxing Council (WBC), would be. It all depended on who won the purse bid in Mexico City late last night.

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, who was in Mexico City to put in the bid for Panix Promotions, the London company behind Lewis, said that if he won, the bout would be staged on May 13, probably in Las Vegas.

But if Don King won the right to stage the contest, he seemed almost certain to put it on the undercard of the bill featuring the WBC title bout between Oliver McCall, the champion, and Larry Holmes, on April 18.

After Lewis lost his unbeaten record last September, when he was stopped in the second round by McCall at Wembley Arena, it has been difficult to sell the beaten champion in the United States. As a result, it is unlikely that Lewis and Butler could head a show on their own at a prominent venue in the United States.

Therefore, if Maloney won the bid he would have to join up with another American promoter, either Main Events, who have been trying to stage a show featuring "fallen heroes" Lewis, Evander Holyfield and Michael Moorer - or Top Rank, who have the rights to the next contest - of George Foreman.

Butler could prove to be a difficult opponent for Lewis. Though he does not possess the boxing skills of the former champion, he does have a knockout punch. Clearly, American promoters do not have much faith in Lewis's chin and think that Butler has a good chance of winning. Recently all three leading American promoters claimed to have Butler on their books and the boxer appeared to have signed for all of them. However, in the end, Bob Arum, of Top Rank, and King won to court and Arum won.

Robert McCracken, of Birmingham, should win a Lonsdale Belt outright when he defends his British light-middleweight title against Paul Wessley, also of Birmingham, at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre tonight. Having beaten Andy Till and Steve Foster without too much trouble in his first two title bouts, McCracken should prove too sharp for the challenger.

Wesley has not boxed for a year, his last opponent being Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation middleweight champion, who will meet Chris Eubank next month. He has lost 24 of his 43 contests.

Coaches left floundering by secrecy over top post

An approach to a senior Australian has caused a rift in the swimming world. Craig Lord says

Pickering yesterday received an invitation to attend a swimmers' meeting with Talbot on Sunday, but said it had arrived too late. "I can't change other commitments at two days' notice," she said. "I was at the ASA [Amateur Swimming Association] annual dinner last week. No one mentioned this. Since this could affect me greatly, it would have been good to be kept informed."

Champion was not surprised by the snub: "It would have been good to think we were worthy. Maybe we've gone back to the bad old days of blundering inefficiency. Se-



Pickering: not attending

crecy and little help for the people who produce the results. At the end of the day, no one is going to mess up our plans for Atlanta [Olympics]. I don't care if they're God. I'm sure Don would agree."

Indeed, Talbot is likely to have his first stern words with the men who would employ him, with Sports Council funding, over this very matter. Talbot has a reputation as a straight-talking Australian. At 61, he has one of the finest pedigrees in the sport, having led the national programmes of both Canada and Australia with much success. His remuneration for the British job is likely to exceed £60,000.

Tonight, some coaches, while welcoming Talbot, will want to know why the job was never advertised. Positions of youth development officer, facilities consultant and chief executive of the ASA were also among jobs not advertised.

The appointment by a 2-1 vote of David Sparkes, secretary of the federation, as ASA chief executive, caused heated debate at the annual general meeting last weekend. A report by delegates of the British Swimming Coaches Association complained that Sparkes's appointment was presented as a *fait accompli* and that his responsibilities and salary were not revealed.

The report notes that only 30 minutes was spent talking about the future of British swimming. "If this meeting was to signpost the way to the future of swimming, it failed miserably," it said.

Cash enjoys change of fortune

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

IT IS more than two years since Pat Cash last reached the quarter-finals of a leading tennis tournament. Then, he was playing at the Queen's Club in London, one of the most English of venues; last night, in the desert of Dubai. Cash repeated the feat by beating Alberto Costa, of Spain, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

It was not the easiest or the most stylish of victories. It had not rained here since Christmas Day, 1993, but his match drizzled on for nearly six hours after two rain delays, the first of which nearly cost Cash the match.

After serving impressively to take control of the first set, the rain disrupted his rhythm and, once back on court, his first service deserted him. So did the second set. Struggling at 2-0 down in the third, he was saved by the arrival of yet another shower, and he returned to reel off the last four games and go through to the last eight of the Dubai Open. Victory was proof to Cash that all his hard work has been worthwhile. Most of 1993 was spent recovering from a knee injury, and he then had to undergo back surgery, which kept him away from the courts for most of the 1994 season. "I've got to send notice to these guys that I'm back," Cash, who beat Thomas Muster in the previous round, said. "I have to show them I'm serious about singles, and not just here for the doubles."

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A map (or maps) delineating the route of the proposed pipelines and providing certain further information may be inspected free of charge at the places listed in the Schedule to this notice from 10am to 5pm on each weekday from the date that this notice is published until the date mentioned in the next paragraph of this notice.

Pursuant to a direction of the Secretary of State, representations with the respect of the application may be made in writing and addressed to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at the Oil and Gas Office, Ashby House, 86-88 Gilt Street, Aberdeen, AB9 1DR (marked F&O M/I 1) or to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at the Oil and Gas Office, Ashby House, 86-88 Gilt Street, Aberdeen, AB9 1DR (marked F&O M/I 2) on or before the date specified in the next paragraph of this notice.

Date: 10 February 1995
CJ Ramsay
(Secretary)
Address: Crumlin House
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Fisheries Office Fish Market 46 Pier Street Paisley PA1 1SR	Fisheries Office 141 Chesham Road Grimsby South Humberside
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CHARLES WORTH Thomas
Redwell, of 27 Wintonworth Avenue, Warrington, Cheshire (deceased), died 14th September 1994. Beneficiaries of the estate of the deceased are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or interests to the persons mentioned in relation to the deceased before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed to the persons entitled thereto without regard to the claims or interests of which they have had notice.

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In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S. Dunn FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, have been appointed Liquidator of the above Company on 26th January 1995. DATED 7th, 20th, JANUARY 1995 Peter S. Dunn FCA Liquidator

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Fat Freddie M takes the microphone and goes "right off the meter" when he gets into full stride with his basketball commentaries. Photograph: James Morgan

Fearless Freddie shoots from the lip

Fat Freddie M. it stated on the handout received by this column from Fat Freddie M's agent, is the basketball commentator: upbeat, knowledgeable, fluent, fearless. He can also be heard on Kiss FM, where he is a DJ.

The column consulted Kiss FM's programme schedule, gleaned that the Fat Freddie M Show — soul, swing, R & B, reggae — is on Fridays from 1am to 4am and opted to catch him within the column's working hours. The agent arranged accreditation at the London Arena in Docklands for the first leg of the National Cup semi-finals featuring London Leopards versus Thames Valley Tigers. Tip-off 7pm.

The column has not previously visited Docklands, though it has friends who have. A futuristic railway takes passengers smoothly and quickly from Bank to Cross Harbour station opposite the Arena.

There is a large entrance

with a thinnish crowd trickling through the turnstiles; the column was referred to an altogether smaller entrance marked VIPs, where trade was substantially brisker and Fat Freddie M's agent introduced herself, looked acutely embarrassed, queued for the column's ticket, obtained this and faded from the story.

London Arena's VIP badge admits the bearer to an area that dispenses wall-to-wall hot dogs, tortilla chips and popcorn in cardboard buckets; load Budweiser and colas.

It is reminiscent of Planet Hollywood with the volume turned down a notch; it is in fact an outpost of Planet Hollywood and the volume increases as the evening progresses.

A week ago the column had seen a film called *Hoop Dreams*: a fascinating, stunningly well-made, three-hour documentary charting the lives of young basketball players over a period of five years, homing in on the problems of



FREUD ON FRIDAY

combining life with the burning desire to make it into big-time sport. The column is also an admirer of, and has empathy with, Mr Shaquille O'Neal who is 7ft 3in... which is actually the correct height for this column's weight. London Arena is rigged to seat 2,400 people, was about half full of impeccably behaved, mainly youthful, well-over-50-per-cent-female spectators.

The game starts and after a while the cacophony of sound can be broken down into

components: pre-programmed theme music from the console (a bespoke keyboard to provide background tunes over which the operator taps in notes that simulate appropriate chants from the punters, the noise of a freelance drummer and a few eager trumpeters among the spectators), the smooth commentary, the cheers of the crowd and an occasional shriek by a woman who looked like a pillar of the Home Counties' mothers' guild. She was actually the girlfriend of the Tigers and England captain, Peter Scantlebury, 6ft 6in.

There is also the chattering of cheerleaders called the Wildcats who wave pom-poms and dance — well, gyrate — during timeouts in Doc Marten ballet shoes.

The team coaches move along the touchlines giving complicated signals to their players, replacing them, miming ecstasy, horror, occasional

fury with a referee. They are dressed in slacks and jackets like men in the windows of Simpsons in Piccadilly.

To the delight of most and the strill wraith of the woman from the Thames Valley, Leopards came with a late burst to win the home leg of the semi-final by six points. The column, having perceived that the commentator was a competent Wolstenholme of a man called Simon Mattick set out to find Fat Freddie M, who had been the reason for his presence at Docklands.

Fat F is a wannabe basketball voice with no contract; however, many who have heard him hail him as the most charismatic of them all. He is 6ft 4in, weighs 220lb, is 32 years old, comes from Wandsworth, got two O levels, works as youth club team leader and the column's grandson, Tom, who used to go to the club to work out, speaks of him fondly and with respect.

Why "Fat" we asked. It is a

name I got when I did basketball commentaries in the States in 1988. FAT stands for Full A Truth.

Were you a player? No, I watched a lot of tapes, am well animated and when I took the microphone I was able to constantly raise the profile of the game, would tell it like it was. "You're playing terrible. They're going to sack you."

Why would they not let you do tonight's commentary? I'm a threat to their jobs. I'm becoming an issue.

We listen to a tape of his commentary. The sound engineer had warned us that he goes right off the meter, and he does, but his fluency, speed of identification and intelligent reading of the game are impressive.

What have been the highlights of your life? Getting married, meeting Shaq O'Neal and shaking hands with Stevie Wonder.

This column believes he will go a long way; and might need a new agent.

Rothwell seeking cheap day return

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

ROTHWELL Town's players will clamber aboard a coach at 7.30am tomorrow to make a journey to Gateshead that few at the Northamptonshire club could have anticipated when beginning an FA Trophy campaign for the first time in September.

In the light of the decision this season that all Beazer Homes League midland and southern division clubs should play in the Trophy, Rothwell, champions of the United Counties League for the past two seasons and promoted to

up there on Friday night. Many of the players had taken time off on Monday to go to Newbury and couldn't afford to do it again.

"Then there is the financial side of the equation. Every penny we pay out we have to raise ourselves at the club. For all that, it's a marvellous club. We're close-knit and there is tremendous camaraderie. We'll be going up there to give a good account of ourselves."

Colin Richardson, the Gateshead manager, will be wary of Rothwell. When he was in charge of the Bridlington Town side that won the Vase in 1993, he came across Rothwell in the fifth round.

"It was our best Vase run," Murray said. "We'd reached the last 16 for the first time and they put us out with a goal in the last minute of extra time after we'd played 105 minutes with ten men."

"Our captain, Adrian Sheerin, was sent off for a foul from which he was later absolved. It was a dreadful refereeing blunder. He gave handball when it was the goalkeeper's hand that touched it," Sheerin, a "five-foot nothing" midfielder player, still wears the captain's armband.

Murray, who manages a company building mobile homes in Irthlingborough, is well placed to sense equal anticipation as Rushden and Diamonds head off to play Farnborough Town. Ilkeston Town, also Beazer Homes League newcomers, go to Welling United.

Sammy McIntyre will lead Macclesfield Town, the Conference leaders, to a place he knows well: Hurst Cross, the home of Aston United, where he was manager for a season.

Little pins blame on McGhee as deal folds

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LITTLE, the Aston Villa manager, has strongly criticised his successor at Leicester City, Mark McGhee, after the proposed transfer of Gary Parker to Filbert Street fell through.

Parker, the Villa midfielder player, had agreed personal terms with Leicester but Little claims McGhee then asked for details of the transfer — originally believed to be worth £600,000 — to be revised.

Little, who resigned from Leicester before taking over at Villa Park after the dismissal of Ron Atkinson, said yesterday: "It's scandalous and totally out of order. McGhee and I agreed a deal last Friday and then he allowed Parker to speak to Leicester."

"Then, yesterday morning, McGhee phoned to say he wanted different terms. I was stunned and find it hard to believe two managers cannot make an agreement that stands."

Parker, who is also attracting the interest of Ipswich Town, said: "I feel like I have been on a fool's errand. I just wish the clubs would get their acts together."

Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, has withdrawn from the England squad to meet Ireland in Dublin on February 15 after breaking a toe in the FA Cup Premiership match with Leeds United last week.

Crystal Palace have signed the midfielder player, Bjorn Enqvist, from Malmö FF, of the Swedish first division. Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, said: "Bjorn is only 17 and a very promising player to add to our already rich seam of young professionals."

Aimless Arsenal take their eye off the greater cause

Simon Barnes sees a passion of purpose and identity burning brightly in Milan

The first leg of the European Super Cup finished 0-0, a not untypical Arsenal scoreline. Fabio Capello, coach of their opponents, AC Milan, was asked if his team were an Italian Arsenal. His denial was uncompromising: "Assolutamente no!"

On Wednesday, he made his denial in a still more emphatic form, and without saying a word. Milan beat Arsenal 2-0 to win the trophy with a style, a sense of purpose, and a sense of self-certainty that no English club can match.

It was the sort of game that lifts English footballing people into positive orgies of — the term needs coining, if only for football — xenophilia: love of the foreign, the exotic. Milan showed us the passing, the sureness of touch, the coolness of finishing; above all, the sense of team identity.

Milan are like Arsenal in that they don't win by huge margins, and they don't have a

system of stars and spear-carriers. But Milan are utterly unlike any team in the Premiership in the way that they can control a game: the pace and the patterns of football. When you play Milan, Milan set the agenda.

"They are the best team in Europe, or in the world," George Graham, the Arsenal manager said. "We've learnt a lot from them. But we could have given them a better game, though, and I am disappointed."

Arsenal enthusiasts will point to a disallowed goal as the turning point. Had Wright's stabbing shot been allowed to stand, there is no telling what the corporate

frenzy of cup-tie football might have achieved.

A result like that, possible but unlikely, would have muddied issues that the actual result made uncompromisingly clear. Capello summed up his team's virtues: "It is in the attitude, in the mentality, something that the older players transfer to the younger. They learn self-sacrifice."

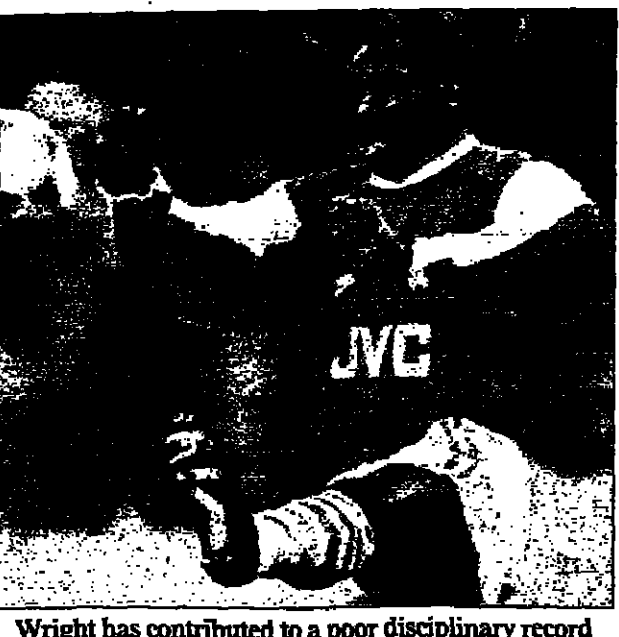
This is nothing less than the cultural transmission of the team's identity. The team has great players, but around each of them, there is the stamp of restraint, almost a sense of anonymity. They are servants of a greater cause.

And strangely enough, this pattern has a very clear precedent in English football. Not in Arsenal, but in the Liverpool of the Eighties, the legend of cultural transmission via the boot-room, the same sense of shared purpose, shared identity.

Arsenal have a tradition all right, but in a season of troubles, it has not given them the help and the solace they require. Problems include investigations into Graham's financial dealing, Merson's alcoholism and, on the pitch, the appalling disciplinary record. Meanwhile, results get worse — one win in the past eight matches.

Arsenal needed this bauble to rescue a sad season. Despite their brave showing, the clear sense of being at least two classes behind Milan will inflict psychological scars at a critical time. An Arsenal supporter, emerging from Milan cathedral, announced: "I've lit two candles — one for George and one for the team." Perhaps not enough.

As for Milan, Capello said that his team were doing all right, but were still two months away from their best. Frightening thought.



Wright has contributed to a poor disciplinary record

Earnest look at comedy

The Importance of the Importance. Radio 4, 9.30pm.

A wit once said of *The Importance of Being Earnest* that if you take away the brilliance, all you are left with is more brilliance. A more humdrum analogy is the one about peeling layers off an onion. *Kaleidoscope's* anatomy of Wilde's quintessential high comedy made me think more of a house of cards: remove one carelessly and the whole affair comes tumbling down. Luckily, there is no such disaster tonight. Presenter Paul Doust and his panel of actors, directors and critics, including the redoubtable Michael Billington, carefully check the foundations of this magnificent theatrical edifice before removing a wall or two to examine the contents. They include, of course, Lady Bracknell's imperishable handbag.

Music of the Silk Road. Radio 3, 4.30pm.

It was not only silk from China, and gold, silver and glass from the Mediterranean that were once carried by camel trains along the East-West trade routes known as the Silk Road. There was a cultural exchange, too, and it is the musical dividends that Sara Nuttall examines in her eight-part series. She begins in Turkey where it comes as a surprise to hear a song from Persia being performed at a wedding. There are more surprises. I expected the Dance of the Whirling Dervishes to sound like the Anatolian equivalent of Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance" — all flashing eyes, teeth, and feet. What we hear is graceful, non-whirling stuff. Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo, 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30am Steve Wright in the Morning 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier, including The Amazing Spiderman; and at 5.30-5.45pm Newsbeat 7.00pm Pete Tong's Essential Selection 10.00pm John Peel: Psychedelic improvisation from six-piece Progheads 1.00am The IFM Rap Show, with Westwood</p>	<p>All times in GMT, 4.30am BBC English 4.45am Frithmagazine 6.00am Newshour 6.00am Morgenmagazin 6.30am Europe Today 7.00am World News 7.15am Off the Shelf: The Trial of the Virgin 7.30am Isman 8.00am News 8.10am Words of Faith 8.15am Music Review 9.00am News 9.05am World Business Report 9.15am Global Concerns 9.30am On the Move 9.45am Sports Roundup 10.00am News 10.01am Focus on Faith 10.30am World Ranking 11.00am Newsdesk 11.15am BBC English 11.45am Morgenmagazin 12.00am News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15am Isman 12.45am Sport 1.00am News 2.05am Outlook 2.30am Off the Shelf: The Trial of the Virgin 2.45am Global Concerns 3.00am News 3.15am Music Review 4.00am News 4.15am BBC English 4.30am Heute Aktuell 5.00am News 5.05am World Business Report 5.15am BBC English 6.00am Newsdesk 6.30am News 6.45am Outlook 1.30am Words of Faith 8.15am The World Today 8.30am Europe Today 9.00am News 10.05am World Business Report 10.15am People and Politics 10.45am Sport 11.00am Newsdesk 11.30am Multitrack: Alternative 12.00am News 12.15am The Essential Duran 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45am The Learning World 1.00am News 1.05am Outlook 1.30am Words of Faith 1.45am Jazz Now and Then 2.00am Newsdesk 2.30am People and Politics 3.00am News 3.15am Sport 3.30am The Vintage Chart Show 4.00am Newsdesk</p>
RADIO 2	RADIO 5 LIVE
<p>FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 8.15am Pause for Thought 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.15am Pause for Thought 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30pm Ed Stewart 4.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Maestro: Musical quiz 7.30pm Friday Night Music Night 8.45pm Treasure Island (5/10) 9.00pm Listen to the Band: Bolton's Wriggles Band under John Hudson 10.00pm Alan Titchmarsh: Radio 2 Arts Programme. News of three new theatrical productions 12.05am Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes: featuring Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight, recorded at the Stables, Waverdon 1.00am Jon Briggs</p>	<p>5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am The Breakfast Programme, and at 6.55am and 7.55am Racing Preview 8.35am The Magazine, including at 8.40am Video Review; 10.30am Euronews; 11.00am Chish Piccadilly 12.00am Midday with Mel, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05am Rescoe on Five 4.00pm John Inverdale: National 10.00am News Extra, including at 7.30pm the day's sport in full 7.35am Alan Green's Sportschat 9.05am Of Pete: Sking with Sandy Watt 9.35am Now the Good News 10.00am Stop Press, with John Demand 10.35pm Financial Week 11.00pm Night Edge, including at 11.45pm The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05am Up All Night</p>
RADIO 3	CLASSIC FM
<p>6.55am Weather 7.00am On Air, with Catriona Young. Schubert (Overture: Die Zaubertaste); Bach (Fute Sonata in G minor); 7.30am Quarter Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 55 No 3); 8.05am Telemann (Trumpet Concerto in D); Lassus (Madrigal: Ben convenue); Scriabin (Le Poème de l'enfant); 9.00am Composer of the Week: Strauss (Melody Quartet Concertino; Rühm, meine Seele! Four Last Songs); 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman, 10.00am Artist of the Week: John Williams, guitar, Barrios Mangore (Acordeon); Choro de saudade; 10.10am Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Louise Farrenc (Trio in E minor); Sibelius (Tapiola); 12.00am Voices: Songs from Mahler's song-cycle Das Knaben Wunderhorn (1); 1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester: The Australian Quartet performs Larry Sitsky (String Quartet No 3); Douglas Weiland (String Quartet); 2.00pm Schools: The Song Tree: Music Course 1 — The Vainishing Hole 2.15am Together Stars 2.30am Dance Workshop 2.50am Poetry Party; 3.00am Mining the Archive: The first of six programmes celebrating the careers of great musicians through their BBC and other recordings. Gordon Stewart recollects the career of the Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolova</p>	<p>6.00am Nick Kelly 9.00am Henry Kelly 12.00am Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00am Jamie Chick 6.00am Classic Reports 7.00am Classic Verdict 8.00am Evening Concerto 9.00am Michael Neppan 1.00am Robert Booth</p>
RADIO 4	VIRGIN
<p>6.55am Weather 7.00am On Air, with Catriona Young. Schubert (Overture: Die Zaubertaste); Bach (Fute Sonata in G minor); 7.30am Quarter Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 55 No 3); 8.05am Telemann (Trumpet Concerto in D); Lassus (Madrigal: Ben convenue); Scriabin (Le Poème de l'enfant); 9.00am Composer of the Week: Strauss (Melody Quartet Concertino; Rühm, meine Seele! Four Last Songs); 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman, 10.00am Artist of the Week: John Williams, guitar, Barrios Mangore (Acordeon); Choro de saudade; 10.10am Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Louise Farrenc (Trio in E minor); Sibelius (Tapiola); 12.00am Voices: Songs from Mahler's song-cycle Das Knaben Wunderhorn (1); 1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester: The Australian Quartet performs Larry Sitsky (String Quartet No 3); Douglas Weiland (String Quartet); 2.00pm Schools: The Song Tree: Music Course 1 — The Vainishing Hole 2.15am Together Stars 2.30am Dance Workshop 2.50am Poetry Party; 3.00am Mining the Archive: The first of six programmes celebrating the careers of great musicians through their BBC and other recordings. Gordon Stewart recollects the career of the Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolova</p>	<p>6.00am Russ' n' Jono 9.00am Richard Skinner 12.00am Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00pm Paul Coyle 11.00am Nicky Abbott 2.00am Howard Pearce</p>

RADIO 3	RADIO 4
<p>6.55am Weather 7.00am On Air, with Catriona Young. Schubert (Overture: Die Zaubertaste); Bach (Fute Sonata in G minor); 7.30am Quarter Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 55 No 3); 8.05am Telemann (Trumpet Concerto in D); Lassus (Madrigal: Ben convenue); Scriabin (Le Poème de l'enfant); 9.00am Composer of the Week: Strauss (Melody Quartet Concertino; Rühm, meine Seele! Four Last Songs); 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman, 10.00am Artist of the Week: John Williams, guitar, Barrios Mangore (Acordeon); Choro de saudade; 10.10am Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Louise Farrenc (Trio in E minor); Sibelius (Tapiola); 12.00am Voices: Songs from Mahler's song-cycle Das Knaben Wunderhorn (1); 1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester: The Australian Quartet performs Larry Sitsky (String Quartet No 3); Douglas Weiland (String Quartet); 2.00pm Schools: The Song Tree: Music Course 1 — The Vainishing Hole 2.15am Together Stars 2.30am Dance Workshop 2.50am Poetry Party; 3.00am Mining the Archive: The first of six programmes celebrating the careers of great musicians through their BBC and other recordings. Gordon Stewart recollects the career of the Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolova</p>	<p>4.45am Short Story: Tea and Dancing, by Ronald Frame. Radio 4's Lyn Farleigh (1); 5.00pm PM 5.50pm Shipping Forecast 5.55am Weather 6.00pm News 6.05pm News 6.30pm News 6.35pm News 6.45pm News 6.50pm News 7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm News of the Week, with Christopher 8.05am Any Questions? Marlene Campbell MP, Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokeswoman, Brian Kenney MP, Transport Secretary; Alan Norman, health administrator; and Joyce Cuth Allister MP, who raised in Handsworth, Birmingham. Jonathan Dimbleby is chairman 8.50am Law in Action: Marcel Berthiaume reports from South Africa as the country's new constitutional court prepares to start work 9.15am Letter from America, by Alister Cooke 9.30pm The Importance of the Importance (1). See Choice 8.55am Weather 10.00pm The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45pm News at Six: The Inside in the Heart, Final part of the Laurence Whistler series (1) 11.00pm Ending: A satirical review of the week's news. With Jeffrey Holland, Sally Grace, Tony Longworth and special guest Geoff Boyz 11.25pm Fourth Column 12.00-12.45am News and 12.27am Weather 12.30am Shipping 12.45am World Service (LW)</p>

RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 189.9-191.9. FM 82.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5: 693.4-743.3. 908.4-923.3. LONDON RADIO: 1152.4-1261.1. FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 106.9-109.9. FM 94.9. GL 9. FM 94.9. WORLD SERVICE: MW 618.4-743.3. CLASSIC FM: FM 90.1-102. VIRGIN: MW 12.15, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Deane and Gillian May

Lynne
Truss

He oozed, drinking coffee from machines, their mites under their arms. "How do you think it went?" "Hard to tell. I brought the guitar, but I don't know."

This week's "Superstore Manager," though perhaps the weakest of the series, was still compelling. Neither of the candidates (only two this time) could say honestly that managing a branch of Toys 'R Us was the job they dreamt of in their cot. Julia, a business studies graduate of 23, was on her 24th job application; Kash, a thwarted retail manager in Coventry (31), was just desperate for a fast lane to some decent money. After interviews and round-table discussions, both were finally offered jobs — which was just where the interesting story started, really. "Kash resigned after his first day at Toys 'R Us," said the commentary at the end. "He felt the job did not meet his expectations." Blimey. So what? *It's not what you want, is it?*

CHANNEL 1

- 6.35 Sandokan (r) (8101652)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (49107)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (74798)
- 9.30 Schools: Eureka! (5467478) 9.45 Stop, Look and Listen (5551861) 10.00 Fourways Farm (72404)
- 10.10 Maths Everywhere (9584377) 10.25 Euro (3083382) 10.40 Oil Limits (5810768) 11.00 Schools at Work (9684397) 11.11 Times for (2045671) 11.22 Stage One (6032107) 11.40 We Used to Live (3329584)
- 12.00 Profiles of Nature. The work of wildlife cinematographers Walter and Myma Berlet Jackson, Michigan (r) (50132)
- 12.30 Sesame Street with guests Kevin Kline Phoebe Cates (47855) 1.30 The Muppet Roundabout followed by The Wombles Paddington and Hogglin the Nod (r) (182767)
- 1.55 Joe Cockade: So You Gave Up Smoking (r) (8228584)
- 2.15 FILM: The Horses Mouth (1958, b/w) starring Guinness. A black comedy, adapted by Guinn from Joyce Carey's novel about an eccentric who whose efforts to create a masterpiece cause chaos. Directed by Ronald Neame (767294)
- 4.00 Travelog (r). (Teletext) (s) (942)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (126)
- 5.00 Cutting Edge: For Richer, For Poorer (Teletext) (s) (8107)
- 6.00 Blossom (r). (Teletext) (s) (519)
- 6.30 Moviepatch. Cinemaagers from Plymouth review the latest releases (s) (671)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (5207)
- 7.50 You Don't Know Me But... (988132)
- 8.00 The 3,000 Mile Garden. The fourth of a six-part series about Leslie Land and Roger Phil gardening enthusiasts separated by the Atlantic (Teletext) (s) (8564)



King of the cards Bruce Forsyth (7.00pm)

10.00 **Roseanne** (Teletext) (51961)
 10.30 **Jo Brand Through the Cakehole** (Teletext) (181671)
 11.05 **The Word** (S) (431923) 12.10am **Beavis & Butthead** (S) (193367)
 2.00 **FILM: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** (1975) Constable. A film based on a drama based on a novel by Maya Angelou about a young girl growing up in a small black rural Arkansas community during the 1930s. Directed by Flanders Cook (37603886)
 2.20 **FILM: The Lone Wolf Meets a Lady** (1940, b/w, starring Warren Williams. Thriller about a detective helping a woman who is wrongly charged with murder and rape. Directed by Sidney Selig (7326567). DVD, £3.40.

SATELLITE

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Chelsea to ban hooligan fans

FA determined
to find 'root
cause' of trouble

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

INVESTIGATIONS into football's latest crowd disorder, which marred the FA Cup fourth-round replay between Chelsea and Millwall at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night, will continue into next week. The Football Association has not ruled out holding an inquiry, but will not make a decision until it has gathered all the evidence.

"We were in touch with our crowd control observer at the match within minutes of the trouble erupting," Mike Parry, an FA spokesman, said yesterday. "Talks continued through the night and we are collating all the reports. We are determined to find the root cause and do all in our power to prevent a repeat. It was a totally unacceptable situation. Investigations are proceeding speedily, but we also feel a moral obligation to look into the incidents that happened outside the ground. Until we have spoken with our observer, the police and officials from both clubs, it is too early to talk of an inquiry."

Trouble flared after Millwall, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, defeated Chelsea, from the FA Carling Premiership, 5-4 on penalties after the match had finished 1-1 after extra time. Chelsea supporters from the lower tier of the new North Stand spilt onto the pitch and

fought with stewards and police. Twenty mounted officers were used to help to quell the violence.

Dave Mitchell, the Millwall forward and former Chelsea player, was pushed to the ground and spat on as he tried to leave the pitch, and there were sporadic skirmishes in the streets surrounding Stamford Bridge after the match. Thirty-three arrests were made — 19 Chelsea supporters and 14 from Millwall — and 11 police officers injured.

Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, said:

Aimless Arsenal 38

"We have already started our own comprehensive inquiry. We will be studying in minute detail the closed circuit video tapes to identify the culprits. Chelsea hold a database of 30,000 members, including photographs, and we will institute exclusion orders on those traced."

"We would expect Millwall to act likewise and we hope the ringleaders will be prosecuted and convicted with tough sentences. We are saddened that a few spectators — and we stress, a few — have tarnished Chelsea and football. We don't want them at Stamford Bridge."

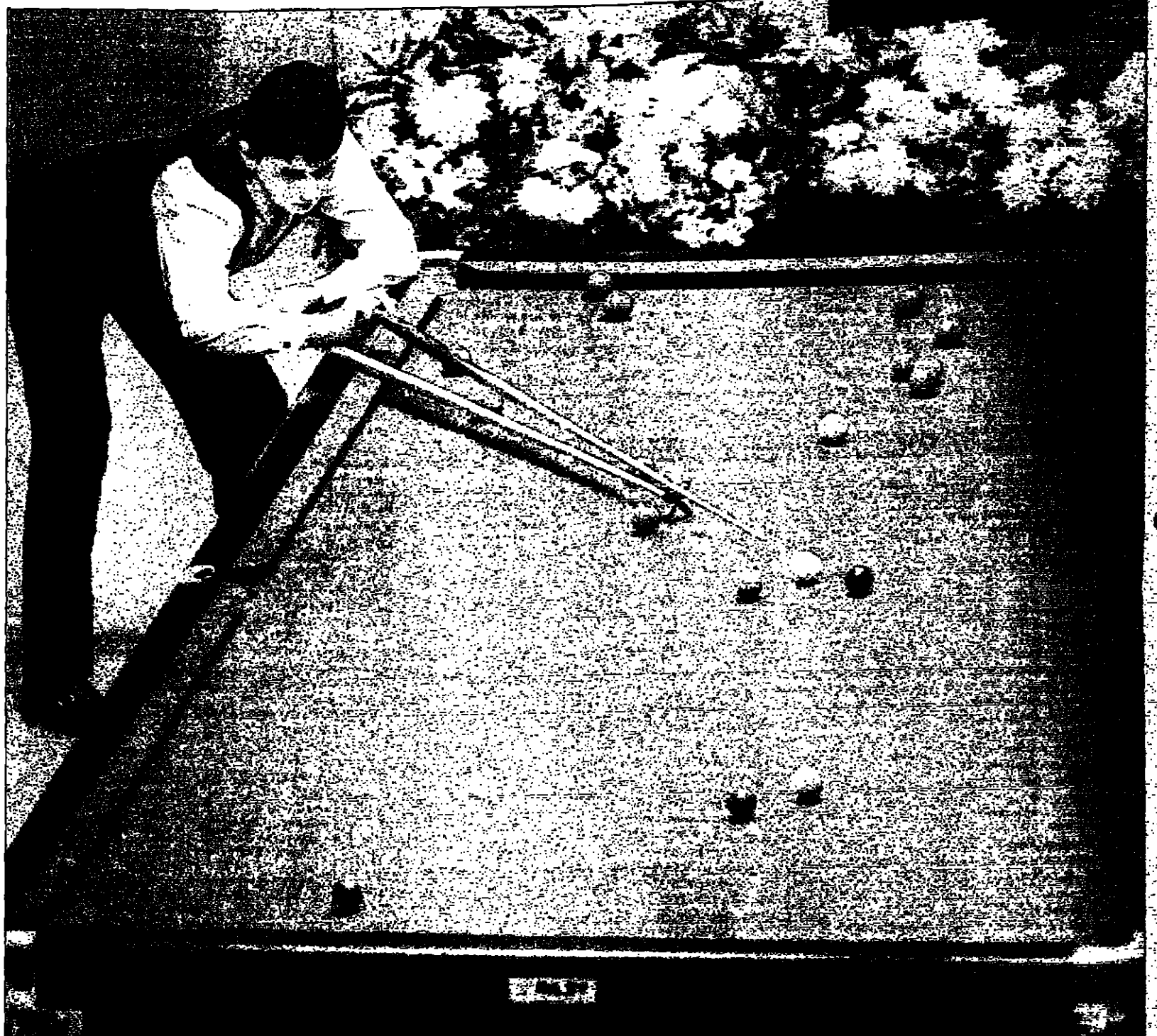
Martin Bodenham, the referee, confirmed he would report to the FA the incident in which a lone supporter from the Chelsea section ran on to the pitch, forcing play to be stopped, but said that the after-match trouble did not come under his jurisdiction.

Since the post-Hillsborough Taylor report, crowd disturbances at English grounds have declined. Revamped, all-seater stadiums without perimeter fencing have contributed to a widespread feeling that the hooligan problem, while not having disappeared, had at least been controlled. However, Birmingham City, Manchester City and Millwall have been fined, and received warnings that they might have to play games behind closed doors, after incidents in the past three years.

The last serious disorder at Stamford Bridge came in 1988, after Chelsea had lost a first division relegation play-off tie against Middlesbrough. The club was fined £75,000.

Chelsea are unlikely to be treated any more harshly by the FA when it completes its deliberations. However, the recent incidents involving Eric Cantona, the Manchester United forward who kicked a Crystal Palace supporter after being sent off at Selhurst Park, and the Blackburn Rovers supporter who ran onto the pitch to confront Rodger Gifford, the referee, after the 1-1 draw with Manchester United at Ewood Park, have perhaps set a worrying new trend.

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, said: "I hope we are not going back to the hooligan-dominated days of a decade or so ago. Great strides have been made in recent years over crowd control." Mark Agate, secretary of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs, said: "Fans should never go on the pitch, it is as simple as that. But these are not true football supporters. We are against bringing the fences back, in principle, but maybe individual clubs have to make their own decisions on this."



McManus, the champion, on his way to defeat by Higgins in the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley yesterday

Wild-card Higgins brings down champion

By PHIL YATES

THE reign of Alan McManus as Benson and Hedges Masters snooker champion ended at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday when he was beaten 5-2 by John Higgins, a wild-card entry, in the quarter-finals.

Higgins, 19, has played with great maturity throughout the season and this latest performance was a further indication that he has developed into one of the circuit's toughest competitors.

Many of his contemporaries are talented snooker players but few, if any, possess the same ability to ignore setbacks. Higgins lets little affect

him, as he demonstrated by producing a high-quality display, despite losing the first frame to a stroke of bad luck.

Higgins made a 62-break on his first visit to the table and, with just the colours remaining, McManus required two snookers to take the frame. However, McManus got them. He fluked the yellow, obtained reasonable position on the green and then cleared up to steal the frame, at 50 minutes the longest of the event, on the black ball.

If Higgins was demoralised, he certainly did not show it. He won the second frame with a fluently compiled break of 85 and it was obvious from that point on that he would not be

overwhelmed either by his opponent's reputation or the importance of the occasion.

McManus, who beat Stephen Hendry 9-8 in last year's final, regained the lead at 2-1 with runs of 55 and 63 — his only contributions of note throughout the match — but it was to be his last success of an afternoon in which Higgins outplayed him in every department.

Higgins, who had already beaten Tony Drago and Darren Morgan earlier in the week, potted a difficult long blue to level at 2-2 before he dominated the following three frames with breaks of 59, 40, and 104. Higgins will now play either Jimmy White or

James Wattana in a best-of-11 frame semi-final tomorrow.

McManus, who first realised that Higgins was going to be a force in the game five years ago while watching him practise in a Glasgow club, said: "The way John is playing is no surprise to me. He's on a roll and he played superbly. I've got no complaints whatsoever and I genuinely think he's confident enough at the moment to go on and win the tournament."

Higgins is now guaranteed at least £30,000 and is only two victories away from scooping the £120,000 first prize.

"It's already been a great tournament for me and I'm really looking forward to my

next match," he said. "When you start beating top players on a regular basis, it gives your confidence a real boost. I couldn't feel better about my game and I'm relishing every moment of it."

One of the fiercest rivalries in the game is renewed this evening when Hendry, attempting to win the tournament for the sixth time in seven years, meets Peter Ebdon. While respecting Ebdon, Hendry appears to regard him as an upstart. The fact that Ebdon once advised the world champion to take his golf clubs to Dubai when they were due to meet in the first round there, has not improved their relationship.



A supporter is led away by police at Stamford Bridge

Brilliance of Ballesteros belies stated ambition

FROM MEL WEBB
IN LAS PALMAS

OVER the years, words have been spilt in their millions as writers all over the globe have sought to define the genius of Severiano Ballesteros. The man himself has always let his actions speak for him, and they did so again yesterday in a gem-studded sequence of five holes in the first round of the Canary Islands Open at Maspalomas.

Ballesteros, who had a 68, four under par, to share the lead with Philip Walton, Paul Eales and Gary Orr, started his magical mystery tour on the 11th after a birdie on the 7th and a bogey on the 8th had taken him to the turn in a level-par 36.

He was all of 40 feet from the flag

when he lined up his putt, and, using the "Fat Lady" mallet-headed putter that had been a gift from Nick Price in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Manila two weeks before, rolled the putt in as if it were a "gimme".

That was good, but even better was to come on the next. Like his playing partners, Gordon Brand Jr and Peter Baker, he was about 60 yards from the pin off the tee. Both Brand Jr and Baker threw the ball high in the air and were faced with medium-length putts for birdies.

Alone of the trio, Ballesteros had the imagination to see an option, and played an exquisite low running pitch that bumped into the bank of the two-tiered green, then checked on its second bounce and drew to a halt less than a foot from the hole. It

was breathtaking stuff, the sort of shot that will long be remembered by those who saw it.

If that stroke had the touch of a maestro, the birdie that followed on the 13th was contrived with the showmanship of a fairground bark-

Las Palmas scores page 36

er. Ballesteros under-clubbed his second shot and was left several yards from the front of the green and 45 feet from the pin.

There was a silence as Billy Foster, Ballesteros's caddy, was sent to attend the flag. This was barefaced cheek, surely. Could he really be going for it on one of Maspalomas's

tricky greens? He could, and was unable to prevent a smile from creasing his face as the ball ran up to the hole, hit the back lip and bounced up and in. The Fat Lady had sung another show-stopper.

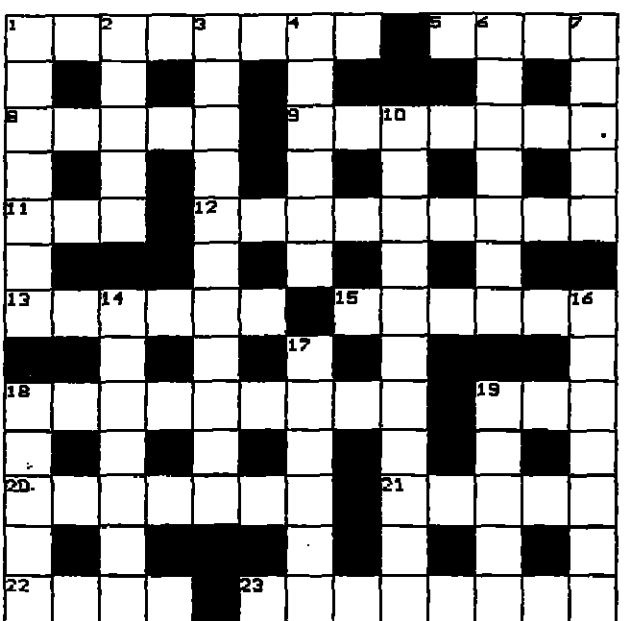
That made him three under par with five to play, and on the 15th he made his fifth birdie of the round after he had played another remarkable pitch, again from 60 yards or so, to a yard. The leaderboard operators, who on the previous green had labelled him simply as "Seve B", placed his name alongside Eales, Walton and Orr at the top of the list.

That gained, he was not going to concede his advantage, and playing directly into the face of a freshening breeze that made things tricky on an otherwise flawlessly sunny day, he

had three pars to finish a round that had contained the sort of golf that makes him unique.

His job done, Ballesteros spoke of his round with quiet satisfaction. "My ball-striking was very good today, and I played very well," he said, and continued, tongue being thrust more firmly into cheek. "The wind was very difficult, and my round was probably worth two shots better than my score. But I don't want to say too much — I want to continue to be humble, as I have always been."

Ballesteros said on Wednesday he was playing here simply to get the feel of competing again. Those who know him doubted if that was the limit of his ambitions this week. Yesterday they were proved right.



TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD
No 392

ACROSS

- 1 (Esp. Whitehall) war memorial (8)
- 5 Young cow (4)
- 8 Pinch together; curl (hair) tightly (5)
- 9 Tiny suspicion (7)
- 11 Cooked dish in pastry (3)
- 12 Illicit liquor; nightlight (9)
- 13 Bird, big coloured bill (6)
- 15 Looked for (6)
- 18 Foolish, wrong (behaviour) (9)
- 19 Complete the letter I (3)
- 20 Funeral procession (7)
- 21 From the largest continent (5)
- 22 Notice, attention (4)
- 23 Car-repairer (8)

DOWN

- 1 Pilot's place in plane (7)
- 2 Unsophisticated (5)
- 3 Flexible length-checking device (4-7)
- 4 Place of confinement (6)
- 6 Permanent (7)
- 7 Musical form: state of forgetfulness (5)
- 10 Endorsement bringing fatal results (4,2,5)
- 14 Sudden swift rise (7)
- 16 Enormous (7)
- 17 Stick (to) (6)
- 18 OT prophet, book (5)
- 19 Condescend (5)

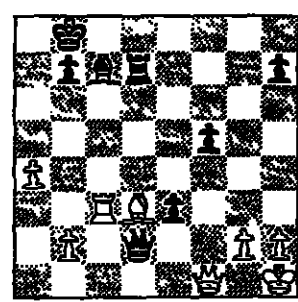
SOLUTION TO NO 391

ACROSS: 4 Bat 8 Torture 9 Round 10 Churn 11 Linctus 12 Sergeant 14 Omen 15 Wish 16 Distance 20 Oil well 21 Niche 23 Set in 24 Fertile 25 Sit

DOWN: 1 Stocks 2 Urdu 3 Nuance 4 Berlin airlift 5 Tronc 6 Huntsman 7 Edison 13 Resolute 15 Whoosh 17 Tundra 18 Eylest 19 Means 22 Chin

This position is from the game Howell - Luther, Hastings 1995. Black has a powerful passed pawn on e3. How did he make the most of it?

Solution, page 36
Raymond Keene, page 8



PALSA

- a. Mille-feuille pasta
- b. A wooden practice sabre
- c. A frozen peat ridge

PUNGLE

- a. A beagle/alsatian cross
- b. A spiked trap
- c. To contribute

RICORDO

- a. A painter's copy
- b. An echo
- c. A heart-warming stimulant

OSOTOGARI

- a. Rotten fishy condiment
- b. A throw at Judo
- c. Italian octopus-divers

Answers on page 36

QUALITY U.K. MADE
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